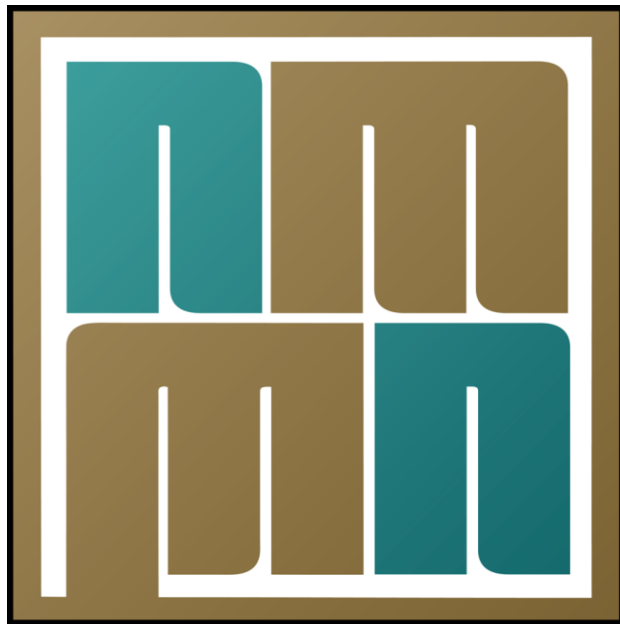


# NEW MEXICO MINISTRY NETWORK

## PROPOSED Constitution & Bylaws 2020

Key: Original, Deleted, Proposed



6640 Caminito Coors NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120-3119  
Office: (505) 899-5399  
Email: [info@nmministry.net](mailto:info@nmministry.net)

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the New Mexico District Council, Assemblies of God, Inc. The corporation will do business as the New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter referred to as the New Mexico Ministry Network in this document.

## ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The territory shall include all of the State of New Mexico.

## ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP

This Ministry Network is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters at 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 New Mexico Ministry Network.

## ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

- a. To promote the evangelization of our state, our country and the world by all scriptural means.
- b. To set forth a basis of Christian fellowship and provide for counsel and cooperation among those of like precious faith (1 John 1).
- c. To establish and develop assemblies in the Fellowship in accordance with New Testament standards and principles.
- d. To examine candidates for the ministry and to recommend to the General Council Credential Committee those who shall meet the standards of the Scripture (II Timothy 3:17; Titus 1:5-9) and the requirements of the Ministry Network, and to assume the oversight of all ministerial matters in the Ministry Network as far as the Ministry Network or the General Council may be affected thereby.
- e. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings and to govern itself.
- f. To establish and maintain network ministries and institutions as may be thought advisable for the pursuance of its work.
- g. To have the right to buy, lease or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real, or chattel, as may be useful for the prosecution of its works.

## ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing,

1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

## 1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

## 2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

### THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

#### (a) Terms Defined

The terms "trinity" and "persons," as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

#### (b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27, 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3, 4).

#### (c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9).

#### (d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 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 Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; II 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; I John 4:2, 10, 14; Revelation 1:13, 17).

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man, in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title "Son of God" describes His proper deity, and the title "Son of Man," His proper humanity. Therefore, the title "Son of God" belongs to the order of eternity, and the title "Son of Man" to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; II John 3; I 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 (II John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3, I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; I 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 as unspeakable joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead (except those which express relationship. See paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22, 23; I 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; I Peter 2:22).

(c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

(d) His substitutionary work on the cross (I Corinthians 15:3; II 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).

#### 4. The Fall of Man

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

#### 5. The Salvation of Man

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

##### (a) Conditions to Salvation

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

##### (b) The Evidences of Salvation

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

#### 6. The Ordinances of the Church

##### (a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

##### (b) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine - is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come."

#### 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 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).

## 8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I 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; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12, 13; I 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 (I 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; I Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

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 (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12, 13, and 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 (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

## 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).
- (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 5:14-6).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I 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; 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" (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

## ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the New Mexico Ministry Network shall consist of:

- a. All ministers holding current fellowship certificates with the General Council, having their permanent residence within the territory of the New Mexico Ministry Network, and having their credentials registered with the Ministry Network.  
**Executive Administrator**
- b. Each assembly officially affiliated with the New Mexico Ministry Network.
- c. Senior-retired ministers having their residence within the State of New Mexico, or if living in another state, choosing to be affiliated with the New Mexico Ministry Network.

- d. Ministers affiliated with the New Mexico Ministry Network but presently associated with National Headquarters or attending Bible schools or colleges.
- e. All appointed missionaries holding network membership as recommended by the General Council.

#### ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

- a. The New Mexico Ministry Network shall meet annually with the time and place to be decided by the New Mexico Ministry Network Presbytery and announcements to be published not later than one month prior to the time of meeting.
- b. Circumstances which may necessitate the call of a special session shall be addressed by the Presbytery, who shall be empowered to make such a call when necessary.
- c. Every two years prior, to the Annual Ministry Network Conference, a Presbyter from each area shall be elected subject to ratification of the conference in session. Area committee persons shall also be elected at this time.
- d.c. The Area Network Credentials Committee shall meet as necessary.
- e.d. The Presbytery shall be authorized to call any other special meetings as deemed necessary.

#### ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

- a. The Directors of the New Mexico Ministry Network shall consist of the Executive Director/Network Pastor, Assistant Executive Director, four Executive Presbyters, 3 or more appointed Presbyters, and honorary Presbyters. Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, and one Presbyter from each area, together with such officers as may be required in the future.
- b. The New Mexico Ministry Network Executive Officers shall consist of the Executive Director/Network Pastor, and Assistant Executive Director. and Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer and two Executive Presbyters, selected from the New Mexico Ministry Network Presbytery.
- c. The New Mexico Ministry Network Executive Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Director/Network Pastor, Assistant Executive Director, and four elected Executive Presbyters, one from region 1, one from region 2, one from region 3 and one elected at large to serve the Ministry Network.
- c. d. The New Mexico Ministry Network Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Officers of the Ministry Network, together with as many Presbyters as shall be elected by the Area Conferences in session and ratified by the New Mexico Ministry Network the Executive Presbyters, together with three or more appointed Presbyters and honorary Presbyters.

#### ARTICLE IX. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES



- a. Local assemblies shall consist of true Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies and who accept their full share of responsibilities for maintaining Scriptural order in the local body, and who shall have a standard for membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself, or by agreement with the New Mexico Ministry Network.
- b. Local assemblies shall cooperate with the General Council and the New Mexico Ministry Network. They shall support the Ministry Network and may send representatives to the annual New Mexico Ministry Network Conference.
- c. Each General Council church has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living head, and shall have the power to make provision for a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and/or New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. It shall also be authorized to elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local church. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scripture and its Bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property in its own right, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing church.
- d. All Ministry Network-Affiliated assemblies shall be governed by the New Mexico Ministry Network Constitution, Bylaws and by the Policy Manual for Network Affiliated Churches, which includes bylaws for Ministry Network-Affiliated churches.
- e. The local assembly shall recognize that the New Mexico Ministry Network or the General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, and the authority to withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary. When conditions arise in any local assembly which in the judgment of the Ministry Network Executive Officers prevents that church from governing itself according to the rules of order set forth in the New Mexico Ministry Network Constitution and Bylaws regarding church order, or when the voting membership drops below 20, the affairs of the church automatically revert to the New Mexico Ministry Network. Such action may also be initiated by the assembly.
- f. When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the New Mexico Ministry Network or from thence to the General Council, should it be questioned whether or not there has been proper assistance and advice from the Ministry Network.
- g. In the case of defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the New Mexico Ministry Network, or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the above mentioned Tenets of Faith and retaining their affiliation with the Assemblies of God, shall hold possession of and full title to all property of the Assembly with full rights under the provision of the Constitution and Bylaws. Should the Assembly cease to function as an Assemblies of God church for a period of six consecutive months or more, title to all property, real or chattel, shall revert to the New Mexico District Council,

Assemblies of God, Inc. (d.b.a. New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God).

- h. In the event the termination of affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the Ministry Network Officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the Ministry Network Officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or New Mexico Ministry Network. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.
- i. Local assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise and to plan for regular contributions for its support.

#### ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

- a. In the event the New Mexico Ministry Network shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. 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 XI. AMENDMENTS

- a. Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the New Mexico Ministry Network Conference in session.
- b. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Officers, who shall publish and mail to the membership no later than thirty days prior to a regular or special called business meeting.
- c. Any such amendments may be originated by any member of the New Mexico Ministry Network.
- d. The New Mexico Ministry Network Executive Officers are authorized to edit mandated changes from the General Council that require the New Mexico Ministry Network to conform to the General Council action.

**BYLAWS**  
**of the**  
**NEW MEXICO DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.**  
**(d.b.a. New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God)**

**ARTICLE I. RULES OF ORDER**

- a. In order to expedite the work of the Ministry Network and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, this Ministry Network shall be guided by Robert's Rules of Order or its equivalent in keeping with the Spirit of Christian love and fellowship and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- b. A parliamentary committee of three shall be appointed to serve each New Mexico Ministry Network Conference in session.
- c. Resolutions to come before the New Mexico Ministry Network Conference must be submitted to the Ministry Network Office no later than the close of business hours, Tuesday, one week prior to the annual Ministry Network Conference and must be signed by its author. Resolutions will be ready for distribution to conference representatives on the opening evening service of Conference. Provision will be made for "emergency resolutions" at the discretion of the Chairperson. The decision of the Chair will be final.

**ARTICLE II. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. All business sessions of the New Mexico Ministry Network shall begin with prayer and **it is suggested that they shall be conducted in the following order should include the following:**
  1. Devotional
  2. Report of Roster Committee
  3. Report of Executive Director/Network Pastor
  4. **Report of Executive Administrator/Chief Financial** Financial **Report**
  5. **Report of all Ministry Network ministries directors/Presbyters**
  - 6.5. **Elections of Officers**
  7. **Committee Reports**
  - 8.6. Unfinished Business
  - 9.7. New Business
  - 10.8. **Ordination of Ministerial Candidates** **Ratify Ordination Candidates**
  - 11.9. Adjournment
- b. All annual reports shall be presented by the chair for questioning and approval.

**ARTICLE III. VOTING CONSTITUENCY**

- a. The voting constituency shall consist of:
  1. Ordained Ministers
  2. Licensed Ministers
  3. Certified Ministers who are senior pastors or actively on staff in a New Mexico Assemblies of God church or an approved Assemblies of God ministry.

4. Church Representatives
  5. All New Mexico Ministry Network Officers.
- b. Each General Council, Network Affiliated, and Parent Affiliated church shall be permitted one church delegate. The delegate shall provide written voter authorization signed by either the senior pastor or church secretary.

#### ARTICLE IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

##### Section 1. Executive Officers and Executive Presbyters

The Executive Officers and Executive Presbyters of the New Mexico Ministry Network, except as hereinafter provided, shall be elected at its annual meetings according to the manner of election as provided.

##### Section 2. Qualifications

###### a. Officers

- (1) They shall be chosen from the membership of the New Mexico Ministry. They shall be persons who have been ordained, senior pastors, and of mature experience and ability, and all Executive Officers shall have been members of the New Mexico Ministry Network for at least one year. All Executive Officer positions are full-time.

###### b. Executive Presbyters

- (1) They shall be an ordained senior pastor in the Network and shall have been a member of the network for at least one year.

###### c. Appointed Presbyters

- (1) They shall be ordained ministers with senior pastor experience and shall have been a member of the network for at least one year.

##### Section 3. Nominations and Elections

###### a. Executive Officers and Executive Presbyters

- (1) The Network office will send a letter communication to each authorized voting constituent by February 1, detailing the office to be filled, constitutional qualifications, and unique responsibilities of that office. A ballot and envelope. Instructions for balloting and timelines will accompany this letter communication whereby each authorized voting constituent may submit their nomination by secret ballot by mail or approved electronic communication.
- (2) A nomination shall be placed on the approved ballot and sealed in an envelope. This envelope shall be placed in the envelope, which has been

provided by the Network with the authorized voting constituent's signature on the outside of the envelope and then mailed to the NM Ministry Network office for processing. If the nomination is from a church delegate, a ballot may be filled out and sealed in an envelope. This envelope will then be placed in the envelope provided by the Network and the name of the church and signature of the Lead Pastor must be on the outside of this envelope, thereby verifying the delegate's right to vote. All nominations must be received in the Network office by March 1 or postmarked by March 1.

- (3) All of the names will be given to a Teller committee, which will count the nominations. The Teller committee is to be appointed by the Network Director/Pastor.
- (4) The Network Pastor shall appoint a committee of at least four ordained Assemblies of God ministers to serve on the Information Committee. At least three of these members shall be ordained ministers within the Network who are not Network Officials.
- (5) All qualified individuals receiving a minimum of three (3) votes then moves to the consideration phase. An initial phone call to the potential nominee will be placed to inquire of their willingness to meet with the Information Committee. The qualified individual has the right to not continue as a potential nominee.
- (6) If the individual decides to continue the process then a meeting is established with the Information Committee. The Information Committee will clearly inform the potential nominee of the qualifications and responsibilities of the office. This will allow the potential nominee the opportunity to discover information which will enable the individual to determine God's direction regarding allowing their name to be placed in nomination.
- (7) The names of nominees who receive a minimum of three (3) votes and agree to serve will be displayed at Network Conference as a verification of the nominating ballot. Then, only the nominees who have agreed to allow their name to be placed in nomination will be presented and voted upon. If a name receives two-thirds of all votes cast in the nomination process, then the nominee will be elected.
- (8) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall constitute an election. If no election is reached after the casting of the second electoral ballot, the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be further voted upon. After seven electoral ballots, if no one has received two-thirds majority, the one with the highest number of ballots shall be declared elected.
- (9) The Network Director/Pastor and the **Executive Administrator/CFO Assistant Network Director** shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot on an odd numbered year as dictated by the term of office. , and the assistant Network Director/Pastor shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot on an even numbered year as dictated by the term of office. **The Executive**

Director/Network Pastor shall be elected for four years, and the Assistant Executive Director shall be elected two years following the election of the Network Pastor, for a term of four years.

(10) Executive Presbyters: The nomination and election process for the Executive Presbyters shall be as follows: Nominations for the Regional Executive Presbyters shall be made by the voting constituency of that region and elected by the Network. Nominations for the Executive Presbyter at large shall be made in the same fashion as the Executive Officers. They shall serve for four year term, with the terms on rotation so that one is elected each year.

b. Appointed Presbyters

(1) Appointed Presbyters: Three or more Presbyters shall be nominated by the Network Pastor and approved by the Executive Presbytery. They shall serve for a two year term.

(1) Ministry Network Presbyters shall be elected by the area in which they serve at the Area Convention before the Annual New Mexico Ministry Network Conference. The voting constituency of such election of Presbyters shall consist of all Ordained and Licensed ministers residing within the area and Certified Ministers who are senior pastors or actively on staff in a New Mexico Assemblies of God church or an approved Assemblies of God ministry, together with one representative from each church. This election shall be ratified by the Network. The Presbyter shall take office at the close of the last business session of the Annual New Mexico Ministry Network Conference.

(2) The Presbyter shall be an ordained Network senior pastor in the area he or she represents and shall have been a member of the Ministry Network for at least one year.

(3) In the event of a vacancy in office during the term, a special area business meeting shall be called for the purpose of election of Presbyter to fill the unexpired term. This election shall be ratified by the Ministry Network Executive Officers.

c. Executive Presbyters

Two Executive Presbyters shall be chosen by the Ministry Network Presbyters from their members, following the ratification of Presbyters by the New Mexico Ministry Network. The term shall be two years.

c. Honorary Presbyters

All former Executive Officers shall serve as honorary presbyters at the pleasure of the Network Pastor and Executive Presbytery.

d. General Presbyters

The Ministry Network shall have the privilege of representation in the General Presbytery by three Members. The Executive Director/Network Pastor, the Assistant Executive Director, and the Executive Presbyters (1 each year on rotation) Administrator/Chief Financial Officer shall serve as General Presbyters by virtue of their offices. They shall take office immediately subject to approval of the General Council Executive Presbytery.

e. Non-resident Executive Presbyter by Area

By virtue of their office, the Executive Director/Network Pastor and the Assistant Executive Director will be the New Mexico Ministry Network nominees for the position of Non-resident Executive Presbyter (by area).

f. Non-resident Executive Presbyter

The Ministry Network, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate two individuals as additional representation to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election and one an ordained female (no age requirement). The Presbytery shall serve as the nomination committee for these individuals.

g. Non-resident General Presbyter

Two non-resident General Presbyters, one ordained minister under 40 and one female ordained minister shall be nominated by the Executive Director/Network Pastor and ratified by the Presbytery to serve on the General Presbytery, representing the South Central Region, determined by the rotation schedule.

Section 4. Vacancies of New Mexico Ministry Network Officers and Executive Presbyters

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Executive Director/Network Pastor, Assistant Executive Director, Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, between sessions of the Annual Ministry Network Conference, the Executive Presbyters shall call a special session of the Ministry Network for the purpose of such election. A notification of an upcoming election shall be sent within 30 days of such vacancy. the Assistant Executive Director shall assume this role until the next network conference where the role shall be filled in accordance with the nomination and election processes of the network . In the event of a vacancy of the Assistant Executive Director or an Executive Presbyter between sessions of the Annual Ministry Network Conference, the Executive Presbytery shall have the option to call a special Network Conference to fill this position, or to wait until the next Network Conference to fill this position.

## ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### Section 1. Duties of Executive Director/Network Pastor

- a. To act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.
- b. To preside at all meetings of the Ministry Network.

- c. To supervise the work of the Ministry Network Office during the interim between sessions of the Ministry Network, to be responsible for maintaining a harmonious working relationship among all office personnel, and to act as counsel for the hiring of all office staff.
- d. To preside in all meetings of the Credentials Committee and to receive all communications addressed to that body.
- e. To administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Presbytery.
- f. To preside at all meetings of the Presbytery, and to receive all communications addressed to that body.
- g. He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform any other functions usual and customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the Presbytery or New Mexico Ministry Network.
- h. He shall be Chairman of the Board for the New Mexico Church Builders Legacy Financial Services.
- i. He shall be the Director of the New Mexico Ministry Network World and US Missions.
- j. He shall be authorized to appoint individuals or committees as needed to serve the Network.
- j. k. By virtue of office, he shall be a General Presbyter and ex-officio member of all committees.

## Section 2. Duties of the Assistant Executive Director

- a. To assist the Executive Director/Network Pastor. Portfolio assignments will be given to the Assistant Executive Director based on specific needs of the Network and in accordance to the giftings and skills of the individual in this position.
- b. To preside at meetings in the absence of the Executive Director/Network Pastor.
- c. By virtue of office he shall be an Executive Officer of the Ministry Network and a General Presbyter.
- d. To act as Vice-President of the Corporation in all legal matters and shall be the custodian of the corporate seal .
- e. He shall be Vice-Chairman of the Board of New Mexico Church Builders Legacy Financial Services.
- f. He shall be the Assistant Director of the Ministry Network World and US Missions.
- g. To assist the Executive Director/Network Pastor in the supervision of work on the field and to perform any other function under the supervision of the Executive



Director/Network Pastor such as he may be directed to perform by the Ministry Network and Presbytery.

- h. He shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the Ministry Network Conference, meetings of the Presbytery, and Credentials Committee.
- i. He shall keep a record of all ministers and assemblies in the Ministry Network.
- j. He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary, or as may be directed by the Ministry Network or Presbytery.
- k. He shall be responsible for all offerings and funds to be used for the work of the Ministry Network and shall pay out the same as directed by the Executive Officers or Presbytery.
- j. He shall establish a reliable system of bookkeeping and shall give a report of finances from time to time as requested by the Presbytery.

### Section 3. Duties of the Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer

- a. The Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the Ministry Network Conference, meetings of the Presbytery, and Credentials Committee.
- b. He shall keep a record of all ministers and assemblies in the Ministry Network.
- c. He shall receive and record all offerings and money to be used for the work of the Ministry Network and shall pay out the same as directed by the Executive Officers or Ministry Network Presbytery.
- d. He shall establish and maintain a reliable system of bookkeeping and shall give a report of finances from time to time as requested by Presbytery.
- e. By virtue of office, he shall be a General Presbyter, an Executive Officer of the Ministry Network, and a member of the Ministry Network.
- f. He shall be the Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer of the Board of New Mexico Church Builders
- g. He shall act as Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation in all legal matters and shall be custodian of the corporate seal.
- h. He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary, or as may be directed by the Ministry Network or Presbytery.

### Section 4. 3. Duties of Executive Officers

- a. The Ministry Network Executive Officers shall be authorized to execute Ministry Network policy established by the Ministry Network in session and interpreted by the Presbytery. They shall be empowered to make decisions on matters of business between meetings of the Presbytery in accordance with the New Mexico Network Constitution and Bylaws. They shall be amenable to the Presbytery.

- b. The Ministry Network Executive Officers and their successors shall act as trustees of the Ministry Network and they shall be empowered to negotiate, consummate, execute and sign all deeds, mortgages, encumbrances, or other documents affecting real estate, now or hereafter owned by said Ministry Network in connection with any property that has reverted to the Ministry Network or any property to be used in connection with new or U.S. missions works.
- c. The Executive Officers shall serve on the World Missions Committee.

#### Section 4. Duties of Executive Presbyters

- a. Individual duties will be assigned by the Network Pastor based on the needs of the Network and the individual giftings of each Executive Presbyter.
  - (1) They shall serve the Ministry Network constituency and shall have the official oversight of all business and activities of the Ministry Network between the sessions of the Ministry Network Conference. They shall be empowered to interpret policy established by the Ministry Network in session, working in keeping with the expressed intent of said Conference.
  - (2) They shall serve as directors/officers of the Ministry Network Corporation.
  - (3) They shall approve appointed presbyters nominated by the Network Pastor.
  - (4) They shall be authorized to administer ministerial discipline in accordance with the General Council bylaws.
  - (5) They shall serve as General Presbyters, each year on rotation with the Network Pastor and Assistant Network Director.
  - (6) They shall be members of the Board of Directors of Legacy Financial Services.
  - (7) All members of the Executive Presbytery shall attend all Presbytery meetings.

#### Section 5. Duties of Ministry Network Presbyters

- a. **Network Duties - (All Presbyters working together in Ministry Network duties comprise a board which is called the New Mexico Ministry Network Board of Presbyters or Ministry Network Presbytery.)**  
 Individual duties will be assigned by the Network Pastor based on the needs of the Network and the individual giftings of each Presbyter.
  - (1) They shall **represent** **serve** the Ministry Network constituency and shall have the official oversight of all business and activities of the Ministry Network between the sessions of the Ministry Network Conference. They shall be empowered to interpret policy established by the Ministry Network in session, working in keeping with the expressed intent of said Conference.
  - (2) **They shall serve as Directors of the Ministry Network Corporation.**
  - (3) **They shall have power to appoint committees.**
  - (4)(2) They shall set the salaries of the Executive Director, Executive **Assistant Director Administrator** and other Ministry Network **employees directors.** All salaries shall be reviewed annually at the regular meeting of the Presbytery **in October.** They shall audit and authorize payment of all necessary expenses of the administration of the Ministry Network.

- (5)(3) They shall make provision for paying the traveling expenses of Area Presbyters, General Presbyters, Network Ministries Directors and other Ministry Network Officers traveling on authorized Ministry Network business.
- (6)(4) All members of the Ministry Network Presbytery shall attend all Presbytery meetings.
- (7) They shall be members of the Board of Directors of New Mexico Church Builders.

b. Area Duties

- (1) To arrange for the date and place of the fellowship meetings in his area and submit notification of the same to the Executive Director/Network Pastor and all ministers of his area.
- (2) To set the time, the place and to notify all churches and ministers in his area of the Area Convention in which each area elects its officers. The notification shall be at least two weeks before the date of said meeting.
- (3) To supervise the U.S. Missions work of his area and act as Area World Missions Chairman, working in cooperation with the Ministry Network World Missions Director in promotion of World Missions in his area.
- (4) To encourage all ministers to support the Ministry Network and its leadership.
- (5) To make periodic reports to the Executive Director/Network Pastor of the work done in his area.
- (6) To serve as a member of the Area Committee, Area Credentials Committee and Ministry Network Credentials Committee.
- (7) To be available to a minister or an assembly needing aid. Such response should include an investigation and, if possible, the bringing of a solution or adjustment. If the Presbyter is unable to make a satisfactory disposition of the matter, it shall be referred to the Ministry Network Office for final solution or adjustment.
- (8) To be available, in the event a church is left without a senior pastor, for assistance until a senior pastor is duly elected.
- (9) To serve with the Area Committee and the senior pastor as the Official Board of all Ministry Network-Affiliated Churches in his area.

Section 6. General Presbyters

- a. The General Presbyters shall represent the Ministry Network at the General Council and the General Presbyters meeting.
- b. They shall be selected in accordance with procedures determined by the New Mexico Ministry Network.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES AND LIABILITIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Duties of Directors/Officers

A Director shall perform his duties as a Director including his duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which the Director may serve, in good faith, in a manner the Director

believes to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person would use under similar circumstances in a like position. In performing such duties, a Director shall be entitled to rely on factual information, opinions, reports or statements including financial statements and other financial data in each case prepared or presented by:

- a. One or more Officers or employees of the Corporation whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;
- b. Counsel, public accountants or other person as to matters which the Director reasonable believes to be within such persons' professional or expert competence; or
- c. A committee of the Board upon which the Director does not serve, duly designated in accordance with a provision of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws as to matters within its designated authority, which committee the Director reasonably believes to merit confidence, but the Director shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if the Director has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause such reliance to be unwarranted.

A Director may waive any immunity provided under New Mexico law if such Director shall vote to allow the Corporation to transfer assets in order to avoid claims against corporate assets resulting from a Judgment against the Corporation.

## Section 2. Liability of Directors/Officers

No Director of the Corporation shall be liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a Director unless:

- a. The Director has breached or failed to perform the duties of the Director's office in compliance with Section 1 above, and
- b. The breach or failure to perform such duties constitutes willful misconduct or recklessness.

## Section 3. Indemnification of Officers and Directors

The Corporation shall indemnify any Director or Officer or former Director or Officer of the Corporation against reasonable expenses, costs, and attorney fees actually and reasonable incurred by him in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which he is made a party by reason of being or having been a Director or Officer of the Corporation. This indemnification shall include any amounts paid to satisfy a judgment or to compromise or settle a claim. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the Officer or Director did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that this conduct was unlawful. Provided, however, the Officer or Director shall not be indemnified if he shall be adjudged to be liable on the basis that he has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office and the breach or failure to perform such duties constitutes willful misconduct or recklessness.

Advance indemnification may be allowed of a Director or Officer for reasonable expenses to be incurred in connection with the defense of the action, suit or proceeding provided that the Director or Officer must reimburse the Corporation if it is subsequently determined that the Director or Officer was not entitled to indemnification.

#### Section 4. Other Rights

The indemnification provided herein above in Section 3 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled. In addition, the Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance in behalf of any person who is or was a Director or Officer of the Corporation against any liability asserted against him and arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provision of the New Mexico Non-Profit Corporation Act.

### ARTICLE VII. TERM OF OFFICE

#### Section 1. Ministry Network Officers

The term of office for Executive Director/Network Pastor, and Assistant Executive Director, and Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer shall be for four years with elections as follows: The Executive Director/Network Pastor shall be elected for four years, and the Assistant Executive Director shall be elected two years following the election of the Network Pastor, for a term of four years. The Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer shall be elected the following year for a term of four years. Each, by virtue of their office shall serve as General Presbyters.

#### Section 3.2 Executive Presbyters

The Executive Presbyters shall be elected for four two years on rotation.

#### Section 2 3. Ministry Network Appointed Presbyters

Presbyters shall be appointed elected for a term of two years.

#### Section 4. Transition of Ministry Network Officers

In case of a change in office of the Executive Director/Network Pastor, or Assistant Executive Director, or Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, said transition shall be made within thirty (30) sixty days.

### ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

#### Section 1. Area Committees

Each area shall elect a committee of at least two ministers to work with the Presbyter. The Presbyter shall be Chairman of this committee.

- a. They shall be ordained or licensed and a senior pastor of a Network church in their area.

- b. Each area shall elect a committee at the Area Convention just prior to the Ministry Network Conference.
- c. The committee shall be elected for a term of two years.
- d. In the event of a vacancy in office during the term, an area business meeting shall be called at a regular area meeting for the purpose of election of Area Committeeman to fill the unexpired term.
- e. Duties of Area Committee
  - (1) To assist the Presbyter in the formation and promotion of the area program.
  - (2) To act with the Presbyter as the Area World Missions Committee.
  - (3) To assist the Presbyter, when called upon, in the investigation of offenses, where our ministers and churches are concerned, and such information shall be passed on to the Ministry Network Officials with the recommendation of the committee.
  - (4) To serve as the Official Board for all Ministry-Network Affiliated Churches in their area, along with the senior pastors of these churches.

## Section 2. Area Credentials Committee

- a. The Area Credentials Committee shall consist of the Presbyter, and the Area Committee.
- b. Duties- They shall interview all applicants for Certified and Licensed Ministers and forward their recommendation to the Executive Administrator's office for further action.
- c. In the event the applicant is denied credentials, he/she shall have the right of appeal to the Ministry Network Credentials Committee.

## Section 1 3. Ministry Network Credentials Committee

- a. The Ministry Network Credentials Committee shall consist of the Executive Director/Network Pastor, Assistant Executive Director, Executive Administrator, and the Presbyters.
- b. The Ministry Network Credentials Committee shall interview process Ordination candidates all levels of credentials and reserves the right to interview candidates at all levels of application.
- c. The Ministry Network Credentials Committee shall forward their recommendations for ministerial recognition to the General Council Credentials Committee for final action.

## Section 2 4. Standing Committees

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

## Section 3 5. Special Committees

- a. Special committees may be created by the Ministry Network in session or by the Executive Director/Network Pastor, or Presbytery as may be required.
- b. All special committees called for by the Ministry Network Conference in session shall be appointed within 90 days following the Conference.

Section 6.4. Ministry Network Conference Committees

All committees to serve during the Ministry Network Conference shall be appointed by the Executive Director/Network Pastor not later than one month prior to the Ministry Network Conference.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Ministry Network Conference Meetings

- a. The Ministry Network Conference shall meet annually; time and place to be decided by the Presbytery; announcements to be published no later than one month prior to the time of the meeting.
- b. Special services or meetings, such as memorial and communion services, ministers' meetings, etc., shall be arranged by the Executive Director/Network Pastor as deemed necessary.

Section 2. Ministry Network Presbyter Meetings

- a. The Network Presbyters shall meet at least semiannually, other than those special meetings necessary at Ministry Network Conferences and Conventions. The Executive Director/Network Pastor shall set the dates for such meetings.
- b. Meetings of the Executive Presbytery shall be called as needed by the Network Pastor.
- c. Members of the Presbytery, or any committee designated by the Executive Director/Network Pastor, Presbytery, or New Mexico Ministry Network, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of electronic communication devices. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting or the member or members so participating.
- d. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Presbytery may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Presbytery.

Section 3. Area Meetings

Area Fellowship Meetings shall be held under the direction of the Presbyter.

ARTICLE X. AREA BOUNDARIES REGIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Section 1. Areas Defined Regions Defined

- a. All language/ethnic and geographical areas regional designations will be determined by the Presbytery.

## ARTICLE XI. MINISTRY

### Section 1. Ministry Defined

- a. Ordained Ministers - Persons of mature Christian experience, qualified and able to undertake the responsibilities of the full ministry.
- b. Licensed Ministers - Persons who give evidence of being called of God to the ministry, and who propose to devote their lives to this work.
- c. Certified Ministers - Persons manifesting a desire to enter the ministry, whose present development in Christian service would not warrant their being licensed to preach, but may be granted Certified Ministers' certificates.

### Section 2. Qualifications

- a. All applicants for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5) and to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- b. Ordained Ministers - Those persons who are at least twenty-three years of age, who have been a member of the Ministry Network for at least one year, who have held license for two consecutive years, who shall have engaged in active work as a senior pastor or associate pastor or evangelist during that time; and whose ministry has been such as to meet with the approval of the Credentials Committees of the Ministry Network are eligible for ordination. Their lives must be in accord with New Testament Scriptures, which provide the necessary guidance in the matter of such recognition (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9).

They shall have completed the required studies in an approved Bible school or shall have taken the prescribed correspondence courses offered by the General Council, or its equivalent, or they must have had sufficient successful ministry, which in the opinion of the Credentials Committee, justifies their ordination.

All candidates for ordination shall receive the ministry of laying on of hands by the Presbytery at the first Ministry Network Conference following their approval by the General Council Credentials Committee.

- c. Licensed Ministers - Candidates must show a clear evidence of a divine call and a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's full time to preaching the gospel. Applicants should have an active membership in an Assemblies of God church and be recommended by the senior pastor of that assembly. Licensed ministers must hold Licensed Minister Credentials for at least two years before ordination can be granted.
- d. Certified Ministers - Efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service may be recognized as Certified Ministers. Applicants must have an active membership in an Assemblies of God church and be recommended by the senior pastor of said assembly. Certified Ministers must hold Certified Ministers Certificates for at least one year before License be granted. In



the event a certified minister is serving in a position as senior pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to License within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the Ministry Network credentials committee.

- e. All credential candidates must meet the basic educational requirements as required by the General Council.

### Section 3. Application for Ministerial Recognition

- a. All applicants for ministerial recognition must submit their application to the office of the Executive Administrator at least sixty (60) days prior to meeting with the appropriate committee.
- b. All credential applications shall be obtained from the **Network Office of the Executive Administrator**. The applicant shall complete this application and appear in person before the proper committee.
- c. The spouse of any minister who is to meet the credentialing committee for credential application or advancement is requested to meet the committee with their spouse.
- d. All ministerial applications shall be accompanied by a required application fee determined by the Presbytery.
- e. All applicants for ministerial recognition shall include with their application form a "Consent to Release of Information" form.
- f. An applicant for ministerial recognition whose application is denied may appeal to the Executive Director/Network Pastor for reconsideration of the application. The Executive Director/Network Pastor shall make investigation and report to the Presbytery. The applicant shall be given a proper hearing before the Presbytery or before a committee appointed by the same, and the Presbytery shall approve or disapprove such application.

### Section 4. Renewal of Fellowship Certificates

- a. All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually.
- b. General Council Dues.  
Ordained ministers must contribute \$25 per month or \$300 per year.  
Licensed ministers must contribute \$20 per month or \$240 per year.  
Certified Ministers must contribute \$10 per month or \$120 per year.  
Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal.
- c. NM Ministry Network Dues. Each credentialed minister is required to send 10% of their ministerial income monthly which is salary and housing (less general council dues). The minimum tithe/dues requirements are:

Ordained - \$25 monthly or \$300 per year.

Licensed - \$20 monthly or \$240 per year.

Certified - \$10 monthly or \$120 per year.

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal.

d. Definitions.

- (1) Expiration date. All fellowship certificates are valid until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event a minister does not receive his renewal form by December 1, he should notify the Ministry Network Office.
- (2) Grace period until January 15. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before December 31, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent and shall be required to pay a late fee of \$50.00 up until January 15.
- (3) Reinstatement required after January 15. Ministers who have not renewed by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$100.00 fee in order to be reinstated. All Reinstatement applicants must meet with the Ministry Network Credentials Committee before being reinstated.

e. Inactive or disabled ministers. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry shall be expected to notify the Ministry Network Office.

- (1) Definition. All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list.
- (2) Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list. When a minister is definitely inactive for 2 consecutive years, his or her name shall be removed from the ministerial list, unless the Network Credentials Committee specifically requests otherwise.
- (3) Exceptions. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by the infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as Ministry Network workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers in the Assemblies of God, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.
- (4) Disabled ministers. A permanently disabled or permanently ill minister whose illness prevents him or her from engaging in active ministry shall be indicated as inactive. The credential status of the disabled minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of credentials shall take place in the usual manner.

f. Restoration to active status. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon approved application to the Ministry Network Office.

## Section 5. Transfers

- a. All ministers who move into the Ministry Network with the intent of making it their headquarters or place of residence shall file within thirty (30) days with **the District Secretary (Executive Administrator)** a letter of request for transfer from the former District of which they were members.
- b. The **Network Office Executive Administrator** shall automatically transfer all ministers who are in good standing from this Ministry Network to the District where they have moved to take up the duties of the ministry, unless they are in full-time evangelistic ministry or senior retired and have expressed a desire to remain in the New Mexico Ministry Network.

## Section 6. Ministerial Relations

- a. All ministers shall be amenable to the Ministry Network in matters of doctrine and conduct.
- b. All ministers shall affiliate with the Ministry Network and work in cooperation with same, and failure to cooperate with the same shall bring their ministry into question.
- c. No minister shall be allowed to withdraw from the fellowship prior to investigation by the Ministry Network.
- d. Ministers and affiliated assemblies should refrain from engaging any minister not endorsed by the Ministry Network until they have received clearance from the Ministry Network Office.
- e. No minister shall give letters of recommendation to ministers not endorsed by the New Mexico Ministry Network.
- f. No credentialed minister, making his church home under another senior pastor, shall hold an office in the local church as a board member.
- g. All discourteous conduct is disapproved and all ministers are advised against interfering with senior pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent, or by such communication with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the assembly shall be addressed to the senior pastor or proper officer. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.
- h. Ministry Network ministers and workers coming into a field where there is already a Ministry Network work should seek to cooperate with same.
- i. Anyone desiring to start a new work, or any established assembly desiring to relocate, must be governed by the following guidelines:
  - (1) Need
  - (2) Location of property
  - (3) The location of already established assemblies, and
  - (4) The minister involved

Such new works or relocation of established assemblies, must first meet the approval of the Ministry Network.

- j. In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility. The offenders shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.
- k. Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise. Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work. We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with the Network Executive Officers before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have Network approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conduction services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.
- l. All credentialed ministers are expected to attend and support a local Assemblies of God church. Special exceptions may be granted by the Network Executive/Network Pastor and Area Presbyter.

## Section 7. Voluntary Cooperative Fellowship and Commitment to the Fellowship

Commitment is an active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in the positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant one shall comply with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Voluntary cooperation means when a minister becomes a member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation becomes obligatory and not optional.

## Section 8. Discipline of Ministers

- a. Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers affiliated with us who for some reason have reached the place where their conduct of the

ministry has been brought in question. It is obvious that the Credentials Committee, which has the authority to recognize ministers, also has the right to determine the merits of complaints and to withdraw approval when necessary. General ineffectiveness in the ministry, failure or inability to correctly represent our Pentecostal testimony, a continuous non-cooperative spirit, failure to support the Ministry Network with required ministerial tithes, a declared open change in doctrinal views, immoral, unethical or illegal practices related to personal, church or ministry finances, a marriage in opposition to our constitutional stand on marriage and divorce, etc., may give cause for the action of the Committee.

Complaints against a minister shall be filed in writing with the Ministry Network Officials and must be signed by the complainant(s). The Executive Director/Network Pastor shall make investigation and report to the Presbytery. If in their judgment the cause seems to require judicial action, the accused shall be given a proper hearing before the Presbytery, or before a committee appointed by the same, and if the seriousness of the charges is verified, he shall be disciplined in accordance with General Council procedure.

A two-thirds majority vote of the Presbytery shall be necessary to discipline any member of the Ministry Network, and said decision shall be regarded as final. The minister thus dealt with may avail himself of the rights of appeal as granted by the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council.

- b. The following procedure shall be used for Ministers who fail to support the Ministry Network on a regular basis in accordance with Article XII. paragraph b.:
  - (1) Those who fail to support for three months shall receive a letter from the Executive Administrator.
  - (2) Those who fail to support for six months shall receive a letter from the Executive Director/Network Pastor.
  - (3) (1) Those who fail to support for nine months shall meet with the Area Committee Presbytery in accordance with the bylaws.

#### Section 9. Reinstatement of Ministers

- a. Application for reinstatement shall be made to the Ministry Network Credentials Committee Presbytery. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made and by the General Council Executive Presbytery. All applications for reinstatement shall include a "Consent to Release of Information" form and a background screening. It shall be the duty of this committee the presbytery to review the case and interview the applicant.
- b. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers. The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in GC Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee.
- c. Rehabilitation Restoration . See General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 9.

## Section 10. Spouses of Deceased Ministers

- a. When a credentialed minister has deceased, the spouse of the deceased minister shall remain on the Ministry mailing list for five years. The spouse may remain on the list after this time by submitting a request to the Ministry Network Office.

## ARTICLE XII. FINANCES

- a. All finances shall be under the supervision of the Presbytery.
- b. The financial responsibilities of our ministers are as follows:
  1. Each credentialed minister shall send at least 10% of their ministerial income (salary and housing) each month as tithes/dues to the Ministry Network, which is 100% of their ministerial tithes – less General Council dues.
  2. The New Mexico Ministry Network minimum tithes/dues requirements are \$25.00 per month for Ordained ministers, which equals the General Council requirements of \$300.00 per year, \$25.00 per month for Licensed ministers, which equals the General Council requirement of \$240.00 per year, and \$10.00 per month for Certified ministers, which equals the General Council requirement of \$120.00 per year.
  3. Senior-retired and disabled ministers are exempt from the mandatory tithing obligations.
  4. Evangelists shall send 5% of their ministerial income (salary and housing) as dues to the Ministry Network and 5% of their ministerial income (salary and housing) as dues to the District/Network in which they are laboring.
  5. All minister tithes/dues shall be remitted monthly and compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of all active members.
- c. Voluntary Ministry Network Ministerial Retirement Program
  1. Those making the full contribution (tithes/dues) as noted in paragraph (b) may elect to participate in the retirement program as established by the Presbytery in which ten percent (10%) of the tithes/dues shall be contributed to the minister's MBA/403b account that is managed by Assemblies of God Financial Solutions.
  2. Deposits to the minister's individual account will be made four times a year. In order for one to participate they must complete an enrollment form and be current with their minimum tithes support.
- d. All Ministry Network money shall be sent to the Executive Administrator Network Office and all disbursements shall be made from the Ministry Network Office. by check.
- e. The Executive Administrator Network Office shall send to each minister of the Ministry Network a monthly report form, to be filled in and returned along with the ministerial tithes and such information as would be deemed important to the carrying on of the Ministry Network work.
- f. An independent finance committee shall be appointed by the Executive Director/Network Pastor to review the New Mexico Ministry Network finances annually and may include an independent audit subject to the request of the Presbytery.

- g. The New Mexico Ministry Network shall provide a U.S. Missions fund, said fund to be administered by the Ministry Network U.S. Missions Director with the advice of the Executive Officers.

### ARTICLE XIII. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

#### Section 1. Guidelines

- a. A Constitution and Bylaws shall be adopted and approved by Ministry Network Officers when a church is set in order. Any local church adopting such a Constitution and Bylaws shall file a copy with the Ministry Network Office. Each local assembly shall place in its Constitution and Bylaws a provision that the voting constituency of the local church shall include those who are 18 years of age or older. It shall provide in its Constitution and Bylaws that only accredited members whose names appear on the roster be permitted to vote.
- b. General Council affiliated churches may adopt articles of incorporation, a constitution and bylaws compatible with models recommended by the Ministry Network, or Ministry Network approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguard so that a pastor and/or governing board cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church. When Bylaws are amended an updated copy should be filed with the Network office.
- c. When churches are set in order, the Executive Director/Network Pastor, **or** Assistant Executive Director, **or Executive Administrator** shall chair the meeting.
- d. New Mexico Ministry Network Policy Manual: There shall be a Ministry Network manual containing policies and procedures of the Ministry Network affiliated churches. It shall be developed and kept current by the Presbytery.
- e. When conditions arise in any local assembly which, in the judgment of the Ministry Network Officers, prevent the church from properly functioning as a sovereign body, it shall be the duty of the Area Presbyter, together with the other Ministry Network Officers, to immediately assume responsibility and direction of such assembly until adjustments are made in conformity with Ministry Network policies and standards.
- f. All assemblies shall remain under the supervision of the Ministry Network Officials until the church is sufficiently mature, and has proven membership scripturally qualified to perform the regular duties of church government, and has been set in order. Such assemblies shall be governed by the Network Policy Manual for Ministry Network-Affiliated Churches.
- g. **The Executive Administrator shall publish an annual yearbook to be made available to the membership of the network.**
- h g.** It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to

affiliate. It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

- i h. Minimum Membership: An adult membership of not less than 20 persons. (See 36th General Council Resolution #20, 1975 Minutes, p. 64.)
- j i. Each church should support the Ministry Network monthly with an offering in the amount of two percent of their general fund monthly income to support the Partnership for the Next Generation.
- k j. When the Ministry Network Officials shall deem it necessary, they shall be authorized to initiate a meeting with the senior pastor and the church board, the senior pastor alone, or the church board in case of a senior pastoral vacancy, as pertaining to agreement and cooperation with Ministry Network Policies, Doctrines, and Practices.
- l k. Each assembly should adopt a screening policy for all staff, employees, and volunteers of the local church. An effective Policy is available through the Ministry Network office.
- m l. Local church ministerial credential: A General Council church may issue a ministerial credential pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the Ministry Network. It shall be a non-transferable credential (limited to the issuing local church).
- n m. Provision shall be made by the Ministry Network for parent-affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

## Section 2. Church Board

- a. The Board members shall act in an advisory capacity with the senior pastor in matters pertaining to church administration.
- b. All deacons shall meet the standard for deacons as outlined in the Scriptures (I Timothy 3:8-13).
- c. Upon the resignation of a senior pastor, the church board is authorized to select a chairperson from their own ranks to serve until a new senior pastor has been selected.

## Section 3. Election of Senior pastor

- a. When a senior pastor resigns his/her Assembly, he/she should contact the Executive Director/Network Pastor and Presbyter so that assistance can be given the Assembly in the selection of a senior pastor.
- b. The Assembly is asked to let the Executive Director/Network Pastor and Presbyter know by letter or phone when a senior pastoral vacancy exists.



- c. The church is encouraged to contact the Network office and request assistance in this process.
- d. Only one name shall be placed in nomination, and the one nominated shall be voted on before another name is considered. Any member of the Assembly may suggest names for the consideration of the Nominating Committee, but no name shall be placed in nomination and no prospective senior pastor shall be contacted until the Official Board has received the recommendation of the Presbyter or Executive Director/Network Pastor. The Executive Director/Network Pastor, Assistant Executive Director Administrator and the Presbyter may become an Advisory Committee to the Church Board in selection of a senior pastor.
- e. Each assembly shall make provision for a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and/or a Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God.
- f. It is recommended that our assemblies require a two-thirds vote when selecting a senior pastor to serve for a first term and that the length of term be for at least two years.
- g. It is recommended that our assemblies require only a majority vote when a senior pastor is being voted on to succeed himself.
- h. It is recommended that our assemblies call their senior pastors for an indefinite period of time following the completion of their first term. Initiative to terminate such an indefinite call can be made by the senior pastor by giving the church a 30-day written notice of his intentions. Initiative to terminate such an indefinite call can come through a petition signed by one-third of the membership or by a vote of the Church Board. In either event, the Executive Director/Network Pastor shall immediately be notified, and he shall arrange to conduct a special business meeting to determine the wishes of the church concerning such a senior pastoral termination.
- i. In the event of a senior pastoral change, the church shall require the resignation of all ministerial (credentialed and non-credentialed) and office staff. Proper consideration should be given to the said staff as to timing, severance, vacation, or other benefits, avoiding hardship when it is possible.

#### Section 4. Safeguarding the Assemblies

- a. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister, or pastor. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.
- b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district/network officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.

## ARTICLE XIV. MINISTRY NETWORK AND CHURCH PROPERTY

- a. The Executive Officers shall constitute a Board of Trustees of Ministry Network Property, and said Board shall be authorized to buy, sell, own, lease, or otherwise consummate any real estate transactions.
- b. Each local Assembly shall have a Board of Trustees, who shall be authorized to buy, sell, own, lease, or otherwise consummate any real estate transactions, provided they are instructed to do so by the church and/or Ministry Network Officers.
- c. Every senior pastor shall be required to make a thorough investigation of the church property title, where he may be called to senior pastor, and claim yearly tax exemptions.
- d. All assemblies shall conform to the necessary legal requirements and become incorporated and seek the guidelines and assistance of the Ministry Network Officers.
- e. The Executive Administrator shall be authorized to make investigations concerning church property title and yearly tax exemptions.

## ARTICLE XV. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

### Section 1. Unconditional Security

In view of the Biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness (I Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13), the General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

### Section 2. Legalism

- a. **Matters of Conscience**  
The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as the eating or not eating of meats, who press their personal opinions on others.
- b. **Adding Conditions to Salvation**  
The Assemblies of God also disapproves of those who hold to issues which seem to add conditions to salvation, such as the keeping of the seventh day, who press their opinions on others.

### Section 3. Eschatological Errors

- a. **The Restitution of All Things**  
The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).
- b. **Setting a Date for the Lord's Return**  
It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32, 33; Luke 12:37-40; I Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.
- c. **Post-Tribulation Rapture**  
The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the Blessed Hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the Rapture of the saints.
- d. **Amillennialism**  
The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000 years' reign of Christ on earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.  
We recommend that should any of our ministers embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors, they refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; I Thessalonians 5:9, 10; II Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelations 3:10, 19, 20).

#### Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62), and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus, diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16). The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part un-regenerated (II Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (I Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (II Peter 3:16). Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (II Peter 3:16).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which we recognize as essentially of the world, worldly, and we advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections therewith (II Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (I Timothy 4:12; II Timothy 2:24-26).

## Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

### a. Membership

- (1) There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of the local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (I Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24).

### b. Remarriage

Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light of God's Word. (I Corinthians 7:15, 27, 28).

### c. Local Church Leadership

- (1) Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; I Timothy 3:12). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.
- (2) It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

### d. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

- (1) We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article XV, Section 5, paragraph "b". An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper aforethought, wisdom, and sobriety.
- (2) We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exception circumstances in Article XV, Section 5, paragraph "b", could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

### e. Ministerial Credentials:

We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided. (See also, Article XV, Section 5, paragraphs "b" and "c".)

## Section 6. Worldliness

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

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against: Participation in activity which defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of, or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestations of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; and fascination or association which lessens one's affection from spiritual things (Luke 21:34, 35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1, 2; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; I Tim. 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; I John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

## Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

### a. Tithing

- (1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.
- (2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the minister and the church be made by all ministers and churches, so that the minister may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the minister for his support.

### b. Solicitation of Funds

- (1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds by letter or otherwise for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.
- (2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies. Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities. Projects of general interest to the Ministry Network must have the authorization of the Ministry Network Officials. Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.
- (3) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and

unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

c. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions

The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, closed corporation or any other type of ownership where initiative of action or final authority is not vested in a corporation of the whole. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the Ministry Network, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation taking into consideration equity that the title-holder may legitimately have.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relationship to the Assemblies of God of members involved in such ownership.

Section 8. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships

The New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers and churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraphs, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunities arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunities to bear witness of our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

ARTICLE XVI. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Southwestern Assemblies of God University

- a. The New Mexico Ministry Network shall be a participant of the regional operation of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, Texas and shall be an Owner Network.
- b. Members of the Southwestern Assemblies of God University Board of Regents from the New Mexico Ministry Network shall consist of the Executive Director/Network Pastor, the Ministry Network Student Ministries Director, and an elected Ministry Network officer. As an Owner Network, the Ministry Network may choose to select an auditor as a non-voting member. This auditor may be a Ministry Network Officer or a Pastor/Minister.

Section 2. American Indian College of the Assemblies of God.

- a. The New Mexico Ministry Network shall be a participant of the regional operation of American Indian College of the Assemblies of God, Phoenix, Arizona and shall be a sponsoring Network.
- b. The Executive Director/Network Pastor and any other ministers or laymen of the Ministry Network are authorized to serve on the official board of American Indian College as is provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of said College.

ARTICLE XVII. NEW MEXICO MINISTRY NETWORK MINISTRIES

Section 1. The ministries of the Network shall be authorized as needed by the Network Presbytery.

Section 2. Governance

- a. **New Mexico Church Builders Legacy Financial Services** shall be governed by its own constitution and bylaws.
- b. All other Ministry Network ministries shall be accountable to the Executive Director/Network Pastor and the Presbytery and shall be governed by written policy as provided by the Presbytery.

Section 3. Selection of Directors

- a. Ministry Directors shall be nominated by the Executive Director/Network Pastor and ratified by the Presbytery. Recommendations may be solicited at the discretion of the Presbytery.
- b. **The terms of office shall be 4 years.**

ARTICLE XVIII. MINISTRY NETWORK MINISTRIES OPERATION MANUAL

The Presbytery shall be empowered to develop and maintain the Ministry Network Ministries Operation Manual. This manual shall set forth the policies, procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation and structure of all Ministry Network ministries of the New Mexico Ministry Network. The Ministry Network ministries directors shall submit annually to the Presbytery all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to the Network Ministries Operation Manual for approval or amendment by the Presbytery. The Ministry Network Ministries Operation Manual shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers and is available on the Network website.

ARTICLE XIX. QUORUM

All Ordained and Licensed ministers, Certified Ministers who are senior pastors or actively on staff in a New Mexico Assemblies of God church or an approved Assemblies of God ministry, and church delegates who are registered at the Ministry Network Meetings shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XX. AMENDMENTS

- a. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the New Mexico Ministry Network Conference in session.

- b. The Ministry Network Executive Officers are authorized to edit mandated changes from the General Council which require the New Mexico Ministry Network to conform with the General Council action.



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE  
**LEGACY FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
OF THE  
NEW MEXICO DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.  
(d.b.a. New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God)

**CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I. NAME

This ministry of the New Mexico Ministry Network shall be known as Legacy Financial Services of the New Mexico District Council, Assemblies of God, Inc. (d.b.a. New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Legacy Financial Services shall be to assist Assemblies of God ministries to obtain financing for the purposes of acquiring real property, making improvements to facilities, new construction, equipment and vehicles.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

There shall be no members of Legacy Financial Services.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

- A. The Board of Directors for Legacy Financial Services shall be the Executive Presbytery, as provided for in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the New Mexico Ministry Network.
- B. The officers of Legacy Financial Services shall be the same as the Ministry Network Executive Officers, as provided for in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the New Mexico Ministry Network.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

- A. The annual business meeting of Legacy Financial Services shall be held in connection with the New Mexico Ministry Network Presbytery meetings.
- B. Special meetings may be held at any time upon meeting of a majority of the New Mexico Ministry Network Executive Officers.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the New Mexico Ministry Network Executive Presbytery.

## BYLAWS OF LEGACY FINANCIAL SERVICES

### ARTICLE I. PLAN

- A. Members and friends of New Mexico Ministry Network churches shall be offered the opportunity of investing in Legacy Financial Services Series A and B Certificates.
- B. Series-A Certificates may be purchased in amounts established by the Board of Directors and may be paid for in cash or on a monthly payment plan. A down payment will be required if a monthly payment plan is used. The remainder shall be paid in equal monthly installments for a period of five years or less with no interest or service charges on the unpaid balance.
  - 1). When a certificate contract is paid in full, a Legacy Financial Services certificate shall be issued. The certificate shall mature twelve (12) years from the date issued.
  - 2). Each certificate which has been paid in full shall have a loan value of 90% of its invested value. Loans shall be made for a maximum period of five (5) years at an interest rate to individual borrowers to be established by the Board of Directors.
  - 3). In the event a purchaser of a certificate contract becomes delinquent in payments for a period of thirty (30) days, said purchaser shall be notified. If the purchaser is unable to make the contract payments or resume payments within sixty (60) days following notification, said purchaser's investment shall be forfeited.
- C. Series B Investment Certificates are offered from 1-5 years with interest to be determined at the time of investment.

### ARTICLE II. CAPITAL

- A. The capital for loans to New Mexico Ministry Network churches is provided by this plan from:
  - 1. Loans from lending institutions, Series-A and Series-B certificates, and capital on hand with Legacy Financial Services.
- B. The interest rate on the above instruments shall be reviewed and adjusted as needed by the Ministry Network Executive Officers.

### ARTICLE III. LOAN POLICY

- A. The loans made by Legacy Financial Services shall be repaid according to the terms of the loan.
- B. The interest rate on the above instruments shall be reviewed and adjusted as needed by the Ministry Network Executive Officers.
- C. Legacy Financial loans will require a first mortgage to be granted to Legacy Financial Services for the duration of the loan.
- D. Loan applications shall be approved by Legacy Financial Services Board of Directors in accordance with current bylaws and operational policies.
- E. In the event that agreement cannot be reached by the Loan Officers, any application for loan shall be presented to the full Board of Directors for action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE IV. PAYMENT OF LEGACY FINANCIAL SERVICES  
BONDS AT MATURITY

- A. Legacy Financial Services is designed to assure funds available to pay all certificates at maturity. To accomplish this, loans to churches may be underwritten by Legacy Financial Services certificates, as determined by the Directors, even though funds from the Plan may be available and on hand which could otherwise be used to fund such loans.
- B. New Mexico Ministry Network, guarantees payment of all Legacy Financial Services certificates at maturity.

ARTICLE V. LOAN OFFICERS

- A. The Loan Officers for Legacy Financial Services shall be the Ministry Network Executive Officers, as provided in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the New Mexico Ministry Network, Assemblies of God, Inc.

ARTICLE VI. ADMINISTRATION

- A. All funds received into the Legacy Financial Services Certificate Plan shall be managed by the Legacy Financial Services Board. The daily operations shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Executive Network Director.
- B. Appropriate reserves will be determined by Legacy Financial Services Board for the payment of Legacy Financial Services Series-A and Series-B Certificates at maturity.
- C. All assets, including all funds, certificates, and mortgages, of Legacy Financial Services shall remain the property of the New Mexico District Council, Assemblies of God, Inc. (d.b.a. New Mexico Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God).
- D. Any changes in operation, plan, or loans, shall be made by the Board of Directors pursuant hereto.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the Executive Presbytery.

## INDEX:

- Abuses of Stewardship...39-40
- Amendments: Bylaws...42
  - Constitution...14
- Application for Credentials...26-27
- Area Boundaries...26
- Area Presbytery & Committees...3, 20-25
- Authorizations of NM Ministry Network Ministries...41
- Bylaws:
  - Legacy Financial Services...44-45
  - NM Ministry Network...15-42
- Committees: Ministry Network...24
  - Credentials...24
  - Standing...24-25
- Constitution:
  - Legacy Financial Services...43
  - NM Ministry Network...5-14
- Credentials: Applications...26-27
  - Fees...27-28, 32
  - Renewals...27-28
  - Studies...26-27
  - Transfer...29
- Credentials Committee:
  - Ministry Network...25
  - Area...23-24
- Discipline of Ministers...31
- Dissolution Clause, District...14
- Ministry Network Policy Manual, Church...33
- Divorce and Remarriage...38-39
- Doctrines & Practices, Disapproved...36-40
- Ecumenical Movement, The...40
- Election of Officers...16-18
- Election of Pastors...34-35
- Electronic Communication of Meetings...25
- Eschatological errors...37
- Fees of Credentials...27-28
- Finances...32-33
- Institutions...40-41
- Legalism...36-37
- Local Assemblies...13-14, 33-36
- Local Church Credentials...34
- Meetings:
  - Ministry Network...12, 25
  - Presbyters...25
  - Area...12, 25-26
  - Special Called...12, 25
- Membership of Ministry Network...11-12
- Ministry: Defined...26
  - Qualifications...26-27
- Ministry Network
  - Ministry Network Ministries Operation Manual...41

Ministry Network Officers:	
Duties of:	
Assistant Executive Director...	19
Presbytery...	20-21
Executive Administrator/Chief Financial Officer...	19-20
Executive Director/Network Pastor...	18-19
Executive Officers...	20
General Presbyters...	21
Election of...	16-17
List of...	2
Qualifications of...	16
Term of Office...	23
Transition of...	23
Vacancies of...	18
Nonresident Executive Presbyter...	18
Nonresident General Presbyter...	18
Order of Business...	15
Parent Affiliated Churches...	34
Partnership Fund...	34
Prerogatives of Ministry Network...	6
Private Ownership of Institutions...	40
Quorum...	41-42
Reinstatement of Ministers...	31-32
Relationship of Ministry Network...	6
Renewal of Credentials...	27-28
Rules of Order...	15
Screening Policy, Staff & Employees...	34
Solicitation of Funds...	39-40
Special Committees...	25
Spouses of Deceased Ministers...	32
Standing Committees...	24-25
Tax Exemption, Local Assemblies...	36
Tenets of Faith...	7-11
Territory of Ministry Network...	6
Term of Office...	23
Tithes...	27-28, 32, 39
Transfer of Credentials...	29
Unconditional Security...	36
Vision Statement of District...	4
Voluntary Cooperative Fellowship...	30
Voting Constituency...	15-16
Worldliness...	39