

# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

## **FULL LIFE FAMILY CHURCH**

**Adopted this 24 day of February 2015**

**Revised March 2018\*, Revised March 2019\*\***

### **Preamble**

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of the responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands. We do hereby recognize ourselves as a local church, first organized as such May 14, 1940, in fellowship with, and as part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Southern Idaho Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them. These are to supplement and supersede any and all previous rules of church order.

### **Article I. Name**

The name of this church shall be First Assembly of God Church of Twin Falls Idaho, Inc DBA Full Life Family Church. The DBA was adopted by the church on, Feb. 26, 2013, by a greater than 2/3 secret ballot vote by the members present.

### **Article II. Prerogatives & Purposes**

#### **To Govern:**

This church shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Southern Idaho Ministry Network and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of the pastor, the election of the church board and the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church programs.

#### **To Worship, Fellowship & Propagate:**

To establish and maintain a place of worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We assume this responsibility and privilege to share the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means.

#### **To Cooperate:**

This church shall cooperate with the Ministry Network and General Council to extend the work and Kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program as agreed upon. It shall participate in

Ministry Network and General Council sessions through its chosen delegates and share in the support of the ministries of these bodies.

**To Acquire & Dispose:**

This church has the right to buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, real, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatever kind as may be useful for the purposes of its work.

**Article III. Affiliation**

While recognizing its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this church voluntarily enters into full cooperative fellowship with the Southern Idaho Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

**Article IV. 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 for fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phrasing 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.

\*Revised in March 2018 to be consistent with the General Council of the Assemblies of God

**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 [KJV/NIV]

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**2. The One True God**

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10,11, Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22 [KJV/NIV]

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.

Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, John 14:16-17 [KJV/NIV]

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained.

Luke 1:35, 1 Corinthians 1:24, Matthew 11:25-27 & 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 1:3-4 [KJV/NIV]

c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Spirit is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one.

John 1:18, John 15:26, John 17:11, John 17:21, Zechariah 14:9 [KJV/NIV]

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others.

John 5:17-30, John 5:32, John 5:37, John 8:17,18 [KJV/NIV]

e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God.

Romans 1:1-3,7, 2 John 3 [KJV/NIV]

f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man is "Immanuel," God with us.

Matthew 1:23, 1 John 4:2, 1 John 4:10, 1 John 4:14, Revelation 1:13,17 [KJV/NIV]

g. The Title, Son of God

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title, Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man, to the order of time.

Matthew 1:21-23, 2 John 1:3, 1 John 3:8, Hebrews 7:3, Hebrews 1:1-13 [KJV/NIV]

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption.

Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father, and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

2 John 9, John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49, 1 John 2:22,23, 1 John 4:1-5, Hebrews 12:2 [KJV/NIV]

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all.

Hebrews 1:3, 1 Peter 3:22, Acts 2:32-36, Romans 14:11, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 [KJV/NIV]

j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead, Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father.

John 5:22,23, 1 Peter 1:8, Revelation 5:6-14, Philippians 2:8,9, Revelation 7:9-10, 4:8-11 [KJV/NIV]

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### 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

His virgin birth: Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:31,35 [KJV/NIV]

His sinless life: Hebrews 7:26, 1 Peter 2:22 [KJV/NIV]

His miracles: Acts 2:22, Acts 10:38 [KJV/NIV]

His substitutionary work on the cross: 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21 [KJV/NIV]

His bodily resurrection from the dead: Matthew 28:6, Luke 24:39, 1 Corinthians 15:4 [KJV/NIV]

His exaltation to the right hand of God: Acts 1:9,11, 2:33, Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3 [KJV/NIV]

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### 4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

Genesis 1:26,27, Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12-19 [KJV/NIV]

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### 5. The Salvation of Man

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

#### Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

Luke 24:47, John 3:3, Romans 10:13-15, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 2:11, 3:5-7 [KJV/NIV]

## The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. Romans 8:16 [KJV/NIV]

The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24, Titus 2:12

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

### Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by 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 [KJV/NIV]

### Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

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## **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 [KJV/NIV]

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.

Acts 8:12-17, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 11:14-16, Acts 15:7-9 [KJV/NIV]

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, John 7:37-39, Acts 4:8 [KJV/NIV]
  - a deepened reverence for God, Acts 2:43, Hebrews 12:28 [KJV/NIV]
  - an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, Acts 2:42 [KJV/NIV]
  - and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost, Mark 16:20 [KJV/NIV]
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## **8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.

Acts 2:4 [KJV/NIV]

The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use.

1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 12:28 [KJV/NIV]

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## **9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God.

Romans 12:1,2, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:12 [KJV/NIV]

The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

Hebrews 12:14 [KJV/NIV]

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1:15,16 [KJV/NIV]

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:1-11,13, Romans 8:1,2,13, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:12,13, 1 Peter 1:5 [KJV/NIV]

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## **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 [KJV/NIV]

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

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world.

Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19,20, Mark 16:15,16 [KJV/NIV]

2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God.

1 Corinthians 12:13 [KJV/NIV]

3. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:12 [KJV/NIV]

4. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

Psalms 112:9, Galatians 2:10; 6:10, James 1:27 [KJV/NIV]

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:

1. 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 [KJV/NIV]

2. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-16, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Corinthians 13, 1 Corinthians 14 [KJV/NIV]

3. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world.

Galatians 5:22-26, Matthew 25:37-40, Galatians 6:10, 1 Corinthians 14:12, Ephesians 4:11,12, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Colossians 1:29 [KJV/NIV]

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## **11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in:

Evangelization of the world. Mark 16:15-20 [KJV/NIV]

Worship of God. John 4:23,24 [KJV/NIV]

Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. Ephesians 4:11-16 [KJV/NIV]

Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion. Psalms 112:9, Galatians 2:10, 6:10, James 1:27 [KJV/NIV]

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### **12. Divine Healing**

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers.

Isaiah 53:4,5, Matthew 8:16,17, James 5:14-16 [KJV/NIV]

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### **13. The Blessed Hope**

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17, Romans 8:23, Titus 2:13, 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 [KJV/NIV]

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### **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years.

Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:27,30, Revelation 1:7, 19:11-14, 20:1-6 [KJV/NIV]

This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel, Ezekiel 37:21,22, Zephaniah 3:19,20, Romans 11:26,27 [KJV/NIV], and the establishment of universal peace. Isaiah 11:6-9, Psalms 72:3-8, Micah 4:3,4 [KJV/NIV]

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### **15. The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20, 20:11-15, 21:8 [KJV/NIV]

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### **16. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."

2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21, Revelation 22 [KJV/NIV]

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## **Article V. Ordinances**

### **Section 1. Baptism of Water**

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

### **Section 2. Holy Communion**

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

## **Article VI. Membership**

### **Section 1. Membership Eligibility**

Active voting membership in this church shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- (a) A testimony to the experience of the "new birth".
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13-14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1-2, 15; 1 John 1:6-7).
- (c) Acceptance of the tenets of faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- (d) Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- (e) An indication of willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church in which he/she is to become a member.
- (f) Must be 18 years of age or older.
- (g) Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this church for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- (h) Agreement to be governed by the bylaws of this church.

### **Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition**

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make written application to the pastor or board. Those approved for membership shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an annual business meeting or within 10 days before a special business meeting.

### **Section 3. Pastor and Spouse**

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during his/her tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor.

### **Section 4. Transfer Members**

A member in good standing of another church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other church.

### **Section 5. Honorary Members**

The board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by a unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary membership is available to any member who has left the church indefinitely. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a Christian life, remains sound in doctrine and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home church.

### **Section 6. Inactive Membership**

Active voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the church for a period of 3 consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of 3 consecutive months, may be declared inactive members, and thereupon shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the board.



## Section 7. **Discipline**

### A. Grounds

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matt. 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim 4:2; Heb. 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of this church is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this church, as determined in the sole discretion of the board. The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the Ministry Network and the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### B. Procedure

The church will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The pastor or a designated member of the board discusses charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the pastor and a designated board member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter then the member or pastor may submit the matter to the entire church board. The decision of the majority of board members present at such a meeting shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the church (Matthew 18:17). However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

### C. Resignations

Members who are under discipline by this church forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

## **Article VII. Government**

### Section 1. **The Church Board**

#### A. In General

The government of this church shall be vested in the church board which shall consist of the pastor and at least 3 deacons, a secretary and a treasurer. These positions shall constitute as the church board.

#### B. Duties of Church Board

1. The board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds and property of the church. The board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the church according to these bylaws.
2. At least two board members, along with the pastor, will approve new membership applications.
3. For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of the board shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the board.
4. The board shall elect a secretary from among its members.
5. The board shall elect a treasurer from among the active voting members who meet the qualifications for such office.

6. The board may be asked to sign checks. All checks to be signed by either the treasurer or other board member authorized by the board.\*\*
7. The board shall be called upon, in certain circumstances, to assist in the discipline of church members. (see Article VI, Section 7)

## Section 2. **Officers**

### A. In General

There shall be a president, secretary and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairman of the board. The offices of the secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual.

### B. Qualifications

#### 1. Pastor

The pastor shall be in good standing with both the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Ministry Network, holding a current fellowship card.

#### 2. Secretary

The secretary shall be an active voting member of this church for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services. Preferably, this position is filled from among the current board members.

#### 3. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be an active voting member of the church for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

### C. Duties of Officers

#### 1. Pastor

- a) Shall be spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct its activities.
- b) Shall be recognized as a member of the board, president of the church and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the church and of the board.
- c) Shall provide for all services of the church and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings and conventions. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the church without his/her approval.
- d) Shall, as the chairman of the board, be chairman of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees. The pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility, compatibility and availability to serve as deacons.
- e) Should conduct a training class at least once a year on the responsibilities of the board, deacons, trustees, secretary, treasurer and other church leaders. Such a training course shall be based upon the scriptural directives for church leadership and the bylaws.
- f) Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
- g) Shall be primarily responsible for oversight of church staff, including hiring, dismissing and establishment of compensation (other than that of the pastor).

## 2. Secretary

- a) Shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the board and of the annual and special meetings of the church.
- b) Shall maintain board member terms and advise board as to when individual's terms are coming to an end.\*\*
- c) Shall be the custodian of all legal documents. Original documents are to remain on church property in designated area known by the secretary and the pastor.
- d) Shall file such annual corporation reports with the Secretary of State as may be required by law with the help of the office administration.

## 3. Treasurer

- a) Shall administrate the finances of the church under the direction of the pastor and board.
- b) Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the board and shall present an annual report to the church at its annual business meeting.
- c) Shall assist the church in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local laws.
- d) Shall work closely with the pastor to advise on financial matters.\*\*
- e) Shall be the liaison between the board and office administration for the purpose of clarification of expenditures as well as spending and receiving trends.\*\*
- f) Shall have a thorough knowledge and understanding of financial reports.\*\*
- g) Shall be the primary check signer and contact with the bank.\*\*

### Section 3. **Deacons**

#### A. Qualification of Deacons

The deacons shall be a man or woman\* of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least 25 years old and shall have been members of the church for at least 1 year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have cooperative spirit and regularly attend church services. Deacons must not hold credentials with the Assemblies of God.

\*The language of the scriptures in 1 Tim 3 and Acts 6 specifically refer to men as deacons. It is our belief that the language was not deliberately exclusive of women but a reflection of the culture of that day. The idea that the Bible or the Apostle Paul teaches that women are not to be leaders in the church are inconsistent with Romans 16:1-3 and Acts 18:26.

#### B. Duties of Deacons

The deacons shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances.

### Section 4. **Fiduciary Duties**

The law imposes several fiduciary duties on officers and deacons, including the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified and not commingling personal and corporate funds.

### **Section 5. Temporary Church Board**

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and the other members of the board, destroying the unity and the successful ministry of the local church, the Ministry Network Executive Presbytery along with the sectional presbyter (the investigating committee), upon request from the pastor or a majority of the board members, shall investigate such differences. Upon 2/3 majority vote of the investigating committee they may declare the church under Ministry Network supervision. The term "Ministry Network supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to (1) suspend the constitution and bylaws of the church (2) suspend the church board (3) reclassify the church as a Ministry Network affiliated church and (4) appoint and establish a temporary church board invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife shall cease. If the pastor is also the sectional presbyter, the assistant sectional presbyter shall be a member of the investigating committee in his/her place.

## **Article VIII. Elections, Vacancies & Removals**

### **Section 1. Elections**

#### **A. The Pastor**

1. The pastor shall be nominated by the board. Recommendations may be made to the board by any member of the church.
2. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite term of office.
3. Election shall be by a secret ballot at the annual meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.
4. A 2/3 majority vote of all votes cast shall constitute an election.

The election process should be conducted with the counsel of the Ministry Network Superintendent and the sectional presbyter.

In the event either the pastor or any other member(s) of the church shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the Ministry Network Executive Presbytery and its decision shall be final.

#### **B. Secretary**

The secretary shall be elected by the board from among its members. The term of office shall be one year, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

#### **C. Treasurer**

The treasurer shall be elected by the board from among the active voting members of the church. The term of office shall be one year, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

#### **D. Deacons**

The board shall serve as the nominating committee for the church or appoint a committee (see Article VII, Section 2C, Paragraph 1D). The deacons shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote of those active voting members present at the annual business meeting. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting. Deacons shall be elected for a 3 year term and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Deacons may not

serve more than two consecutive 3 year terms. The terms of deacons shall be staggered appropriately. After two full, elected terms, there shall be a one year leave of absence before being eligible for another term.

## **Section 2. Vacancies & Removals**

### **A. The Pastor**

When the vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, Section 1A. The counsel of the Ministry Network Superintendent will be sought. In the event a special business meeting is called by petition as provided in Article IX, Section 3, for the purpose of considering the status of the pastor, a 2/3 majority vote of all voting members present shall be required to remove a pastor. Severance pay shall be governed by Article XII, Section 3C.

### **B. Secretary & Treasurer**

The offices of the secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, by a majority vote of the board members present at a regular or special meeting or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

### **C. Deacons**

The position of deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, by a majority vote of the board members present at a regular or special meeting or upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever occur first.

### **D. Filling Vacancies**

Any officer or deacon in the church (other than that of the pastor) may be filled by appointment by the pastor and board for the unexpired term.

## **Article IX. Meetings**

### **Section 1. Meetings for Worship**

Meetings for public worship shall be held on Sundays and during the week as may be determined under direction of the pastor.

### **Section 2. Annual Business Meeting**

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church at which time election of officers shall take place and the reports of officers and departments shall be given. This meeting shall be held in the month of March of each year. The time and place shall be decided by the pastor. Notice of date, time and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

### **Section 3. Special Business Meetings**

Special business meetings of the church may be called by the pastor or by the majority of the board. Notice of date, time, place and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. No

business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the church. Special business meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than 20% of the active voting membership of the church, the petition to be placed in the hands of the pastor or the secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

#### Section 4. **Parliamentary Order**

All business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

#### Section 5. **Voting Constituency**

##### A. Qualifying of Voters

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the church shall consist of all active voting members who are present and who are 18 years of age or older (Article VI, Section 1).

##### B. Transfer Members

Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership (Article VI, Section 4).

##### C. Members Under Process of Discipline

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article VI, Section 7).

#### Section 6. **Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of at least 20% of the active voting membership at any duly called meeting.

#### Section 7. **Order of Business**

The order of business for the annual business meeting of the church shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Reading of Previous Minutes	Unfinished Business
Treasurer's Report	Election of Deacons
Other Reports	New Business

#### Section 8. **The Church Board**

The board shall meet at least quarterly or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of business for the church; time and place to be decided by the pastor. A majority of the board members present shall constitute a quorum.

#### Section 9. **Membership Roll**

The board shall review the list of active voting members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the board immediately preceding the annual business meeting and compile a current list of active voting members.

### **Article X. Departments**

This church shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as maybe necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the

church and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and the pastor shall be the ex officio member of all committees or departments.

## **Article XI. Property**

### **Section 1. Title**

All property of the church shall be deeded to the church and held in its name. Should the church choose to do so, it may request the Southern Idaho Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold title.

### **Section 2. Purchases & Sales of Property**

#### **1. Real Property**

All purchases and sales of real property shall be authorized by a 2/3 majority vote of active voting members present at an annual business meeting or special business meeting called for that purpose.

#### **2. Tangible Items**

All purchases of furnishings, equipment and other tangible items, exceeding \$2500.00, must be approved by the board.

#### **3. Debt/Loans**

In order to secure financing of more than 10% of the net worth of the church, a 2/3 majority vote of the active voting members at a regular or special meeting is required.

### **Section 3. Discontinuation of Church Services**

In the event that the church ceases to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of 3 months, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article XI, Section 5 of these bylaws.

### **Section 4. Disaffiliation**

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter by the church shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship. In the event that the church shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, all property of the church shall be subject to the will of at least 2/3 of the active voting members.

### **Section 5. Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the church, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon or any other individual. The board shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the church by conveying the same to the Southern Idaho Ministry Network, for the purposes of the church, and provided that said Ministry Network at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## **Article XII. Finances**

### **Section 1. In General**

All funds for the maintenance of the church shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the church at such

times and in such ways as agreed upon by the board and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction. (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8)

## **Section 2. Handling of Offerings**

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipt form shall be signed by those counting the offering. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local church and of all individual giving.

## **Section 3. Pastoral Remuneration**

### **A. Regular Remuneration**

The pastor shall be remunerated for his/her services by a salary and/or by other means agreed upon by the board and him/herself. The board shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually.

### **B. Reimbursement for Expenses**

The pastor shall be given consideration by the board for expenses incurred by his/her involvement/attendance at Ministry Network, General Council and other ministry related functions by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church as determined by the board.

### **C. Severance Pay**

In the event a pastor is removed from office by a vote of the active voting members of the church, he shall be given a minimum of 2 months regular or average remuneration as severance pay, except in the case of moral turpitude.

## **Article XIII. Arbitration of Disputes**

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this church and the church itself, or (2) between any member of this church and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other worker of this church, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again, Spirit-filled believers who are members of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair his impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may on the basis of such disclosures disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected. The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than 30 days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request of a



party and for good cause or upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least 5 days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors. The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state which may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act. If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the church, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

#### **Article XIV. Amendments**

Amendments to these bylaws may be made by a 2/3 vote at any regular or special business meeting of the church in which the voting members of the church have been properly notified of such a purpose at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.