

**North Texas District
Council of the Assemblies of God**

CONSTITUTION



Constitution

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**THE NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name shall be THE NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD.

ARTICLE II. NATURE AND CORPORATE LIMITS

The North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God is a district of The General Council of the Assemblies of God that comprises all local Assemblies of God churches located in North and East Texas within the following boundaries:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the State of Oklahoma (the northwest corner of Hardeman County), and running south on county lines to the southwest corner of Haskell County, thence due west to the northwest corner of Fisher County; thence due south to the southwest corner of Nolan County; thence due west to the northwest corner of Sterling County; thence due south on county lines as near as possible to the southwest corner of Sutton County; thence due east to Gillespie County; thence due south to the southwest corner of Gillespie County; thence due east to Blanco County; thence due east in such a manner as to include Blanco, Hays, Caldwell, Bastrop, Lee, Burleson, Brazos, Madison, Houston, Trinity, Polk, Angelina, San Augustine, and Sabine Counties

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of The North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the district, the nation, and the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- g. To approve all scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX of the Bylaws.
- h. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES FOR FELLOWSHIP

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

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our 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 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 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 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; 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; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is “Immanuel,” God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name *Immanuel* embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title Son of Man, to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God*, solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5, Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy 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; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express** duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but is an **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; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy 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 Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

(b) Holy Communion

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy 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 enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy 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 (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,21; 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15,16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

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

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

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

11. The Ministry

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

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS

The North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God shall recognize itself as being part of and in cooperation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall prosecute its activities through its district office, sections, and local assemblies.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God

The membership of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers holding an accredited fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

a. The voting constituency at a District Council shall be composed of all accredited ordained and licensed ministers of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God, present and registered, and one accredited delegate from each member church affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, present and registered.

b. The courtesy of the floor shall be extended to Assemblies of God ministers from outside the North Texas District without the right to vote.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Council

a. **Regular sessions.** Regular sessions of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be held annually. The date and location shall be decided by the Executive Officers and ratified by the Executive Presbytery. The announcement shall be published not later than three months prior to the date of the meeting.

b. **Special sessions.** Special sessions of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God may be called by the Executive Presbytery, if agreed upon by a majority of the District Presbytery.

c. **Right of initiative.** The right of initiative in calling special sessions shall be granted to any member of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God when the occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reasons for a special session of the Council signed by not less than 15 percent of the voting constituency of the Council is required to call a special session.

Section 2. Regional and Sectional Councils

The North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God shall schedule at least one council annually for every region and/or section. The date and location shall be decided by the Executive Officers and ratified by the Regional Executive Presbyters. The announcement shall be published not later than three months prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND DIVISION DIRECTORS

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. **Officers.** The Executive Officers shall consist of a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and such other officers that may be authorized by the constituent body in the future.

b. **Term of office.** The term of office of Executive Officers shall continue for four years or until their successors qualify, the term to begin 30 days after the adjournment of the annual council where elections occur. Newly elected officers will begin their service to the District Council one week prior to the termination of any incumbent's term, thus enabling orientation to office responsibilities by the time the official term begins.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

a. **Composition.** The Executive Presbytery shall be comprised of persons holding the following positions: the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Secretary- Treasurer, the elected General Presbyter, one Executive Presbyter at Large elected by the District Council without geographical restrictions, Regional Executive Presbyters, and one Sectional Presbyter elected to the Executive Presbytery by the District Presbytery.

b. **Term of office.**

(1) The Sectional Presbyter elected to the Executive Presbytery by the District Presbytery shall serve for two years beginning on the first day of the month following their election.

(2) The Executive Presbyter at Large shall serve for two years to begin immediately following the District Council.

Section 3. General Presbyters

a. **Representation.** The General Presbyters representing the District Council shall consist of the Superintendent, the Secretary-Treasurer, and one elected, qualified officer. The elected General Presbyter shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the North Texas District or an ordained minister serving in an Assemblies of God ministry located in the North Texas District.

b. **Term of office.** The election of the General Presbyter shall be for a term of two years, beginning immediately upon election.

Section 4. Regional Executive Presbyters

a. **Representation.** The Regional Executive Presbyters shall consist of those elected by regions consisting of sectional as defined by the District Presbytery.

b. **Term of office.** The Regional Executive Presbyter shall serve for a term of two years beginning on the first day of the month following their election.

Section 5. District Presbytery

a. **Regular membership.** The District Presbytery shall consist of all Executive and Sectional Presbyters.

b. **District Presbyters at Large.** There shall be one District Presbyter at Large of non-majority ethnicity, one District Presbyter at Large under 40 at the time of their election, and one District Presbyter at Large female.

c. **Term of office.** Sectional Presbyters and District Presbyters at Large will be elected for a term of two years beginning on the first day of the month following their election.

d. **Honorary presbyters.** Distinguished elders may be nominated by the District Presbytery and elected by the District Council as Honorary Presbyters for life, subject to the following basic qualifications: The nominees must have reached at least 60 years of age and completed at least 15 years of elected service on the District Presbytery. Honorary Presbyters are non-voting members of the District Presbytery.

Section 6. Division Directors

Directors of the various divisions herein-after established shall be chosen as provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE X. REGIONAL COUNCILS

Section 1. Membership

Membership of the regional councils shall consist of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding an accredited fellowship certificate and all sectional churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God in any section within the region.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a regional council shall be composed of all accredited ordained, licensed, and certified ministers within the region and one duly elected delegate from each church within the region holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 3. Officers

a. **Regional committee.** The Regional Committee shall consist of the Regional Executive Presbyter and the Sectional Presbyters within the region.

Section 4. Area of Authority

a. **Supervision.** The regional council shall have supervision over all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its region in keeping with the authorization of the District Council.

b. **Elections and meetings.** The regional council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings, the annual council being excepted.

c. **Credentialing.** The Regional Executive Committee shall have authority to examine and give final recommendation of applicants for all credentials to the District Credentials Committee.

d. **Amenability to District Council.** The regional council cannot be authorized, in any way, to violate the principles and policies of the District Council. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed area, the regional council shall be amenable to the District Council in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have regional endorsement.

ARTICLE XI. SECTIONAL COUNCILS

Section 1. Membership

Membership of the sectional councils shall consist of all sectional ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding an accredited fellowship certificate and all sectional churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a sectional council shall be composed of all accredited ordained, licensed, and certified ministers within the section and one duly elected delegate from each sectional church holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 3. Officers

a. **Sectional committee.** The Sectional Committee shall consist of the Presbyter and at least two ordained ministers.

b. **Term of office.** Sectional Committee members will serve for a term of two years beginning on the first day of the month following their election.

c. **Department representatives.** Officers of the various departments in the section shall be chosen in compliance with the district bylaws.

Section 4. Area of Authority

a. **Supervision.** The sectional council shall have supervision over all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its section in keeping with the authorization of the District Council.

b. **Elections and meetings.** The sectional council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings, the annual council being excepted.

c. **Credentialing.** The Sectional Committee shall have authority to examine and recommend applicants for all credentials to the Regional Committee or the District Credentials Committee.

d. **Amenability to District Council.** The sectional council cannot be authorized, in any way, to violate the principles and policies of the District Council. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed area, the

sectional council shall be amenable to the District Council in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have sectional endorsement.

ARTICLE XII. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A general council affiliated assembly is one which has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

a. Requirements for affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself or by agreement with the District Council.
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body.
- (4) Adopt a constitution and bylaws compatible with those recommended by the District Council.
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution and bylaws.
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and/or the District Council.

b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and the District Council. A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council, the District Council, and the sectional councils and may send delegates to the General Council, the District Council, and the sectional council.

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact that it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty.

d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct. A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that the District Council or the General Council has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.

e. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officary for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officary to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

A District Council affiliated assembly is one which is dependent and under the supervision of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God, through the Sectional Presbyter and Committee where the assembly is located.

a. Requirements for affiliation. Churches desiring to become a District Council affiliate assembly with the North Texas District Council shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
- (2) Adopt a constitution and bylaws approved by the District Council.

(3) Function in accordance with provisions set forth by the District Presbytery, in cooperation with and under the supervision of the Sectional Presbyter and Sectional Committee.

b. Relationship to and support of the General Council. A District Council affiliated assembly shall cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council, the District Council, and the sectional councils. Such assemblies are encouraged to qualify for the status of a sovereign General Council affiliated assembly as soon as possible.

Section 3. Cooperating Assemblies

A Cooperating Assembly is one which subscribes to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution and enters into a cooperative status with the North Texas District and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the North Texas District Executive Presbytery in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the North Texas District Council and the General Council.

Section 4. Parent Affiliated Assemblies

A Parent Affiliated Assembly is one which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

Section 5. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan.

ARTICLE XIII. DISSOLUTION

The assets of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God, a Texas corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, the same being stated fully in its Articles of Incorporation and heretofore in the articles of this constitution. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. All such remaining assets will be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes, and if The General Council of the Assemblies of God is no longer a qualifying 501(c)(3) organization then the remaining assets may be distributed to another qualifying organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, under which section the organization has established tax exemption status, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the District Council provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted at least four months prior to the session in writing to the Executive Presbytery and provided notice of the proposed amendment is published and mailed to the district membership at least 60 days prior to the session. Amendments to the constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.