

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
SPOKANE VALLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC.
Revised September 26, 2010

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, It is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the World a saved people who shall constitute the Body or Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Body, the Church (Ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, counsel, education and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore be it.

RESOLVED: That we recognize ourselves a Body of Christian believers according to Scriptural plan for the local Church and under the laws of the State of Washington, that we may worship God as a united Body, exercising all other rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That we recognize ourselves to be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and active member of the Northwest District Council, with national headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

This Church shall be known as Spokane Valley Assembly of God, Inc.,

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Prerogatives

Section I. - The purposes of this Church shall be:

- a) To establish and maintain a place of worship.
- b) To provide for Christian education to those of like precious Faith, where the Word of God may be honored according to our distinctive testimony and fundamental beliefs; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home, in our community, and in foreign lands, as is commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20).
- c) To establish and support such departments and ministries as would become necessary to honor the call and will of the Holy Spirit in all matters pertaining to the establishing and development of the Faith in accordance to the accepted doctrines and teachings of the Assemblies of God.

Section II. - The Prerogatives of this Church shall be:

a) This Assemblies of God Church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,...till we all come in the unity of the Faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3,3).

b) In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws or as the same may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE III Tenets of Faith Statement of Fundamental Truths

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for but the truth set forth is held to be essential to the full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to Man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self- existent, self-revealed "I AM"; and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association, i.e., as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19).

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; II Corinthians 13:1; 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 Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode, is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; I Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; I Corinthians 13:14; I John 1:3,4).

c) Unity of the One being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father, and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, no person in the Godhead exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 8:17, 18).

e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation "Lord Jesus Christ" is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 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 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; 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 an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead, except those that express relationships (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 His:

- a) Virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35);
- b) Sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22);
- c) Miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38);
- d) Substitutionary work on the cross (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21);
- e) Bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4); and
- f) 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." But Man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God (Genesis 1:26-31; 3:1-17; Romans 5:12-21).

5. The Salvation of Man

A. Conditions of Salvation

The Grace of God, which bringeth Salvation, hath appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; Man is saved by the washing of Regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, and being justified by Grace through Faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:27; Titus 3:5-7).

B. The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence, to the Believer, of his 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.

6. The Ordinances of the Church

A. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of Baptism should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the World that they have died (spiritually) with Jesus, and have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

B. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ; a memorial of His suffering and death; and a prophecy of His second coming; and is enjoined on all Believers "until He comes" (John 6:48, 51, 53-57; Luke 22:19,20; II Peter 1:4; I Corinthians 11:26).

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 of 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 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 wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the New Birth (Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The full consummation of the Baptism of Believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance; and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service. (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:2-6; 1:8; 2:42,43).

9. Sanctification

The Scriptures teach a life of holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word (Hebrews 12:14; I Peter 1:15,16; I Thessalonians 5:23,24; I John 2:6; Romans 8:3,4).

10. The Church

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; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a twofold purpose: (1) The evangelism of the World, and (2) the edifying (to educate, instruct, and advise in all matters that pertain to life and the well being) of the Body of Christ (Mark 16:15,20; Ephesians 4:11-13).

12. Divine Healing

Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement and is the privilege of all Believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16, 17; Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

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 imminent and is the Blessed Hope of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Jesus

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from Heaven, the Salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on the earth is the Scriptural promise and the World's hope (II Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; Romans 11:25-27; Revelation 20:1-7).

15. The Final Judgment

The Devil and his angels, the Beast and the False Prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death (Revelation 19:20; 20:10-15).

16. The New Heaven and New Earth

We, "according to His promise, look for new Heavens and a new Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

ARTICLE IV
Ordinances

- A. The ordinance of Baptism by immersion should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have fully repented and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).
- B. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper, should be regularly observed as enjoined upon the believer. (Luke 22:19,20; Corinthians 11:23-26).

ARTICLE V
Dedication of Children
and Prayer for the Sick

- A. Infants and small children may be dedicated to the Lord in the assembly whenever requested (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15,16).
- B. The sick should be prayed for, with the anointing with oil and laying on of hands, upon their request (Mark 16:18, James 5:14).

ARTICLE VI
Membership

Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its Tenets of Faith, and agree to be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws as herein set forth.

ARTICLE VII
Finance

All funds for the maintenance and operation of the Assembly shall be provided by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Additional funds may come from special gifts, tuition's, and other means as approved by the Official Church Board. All moneys shall be administered by the treasurer under the direction of the Official Church Board. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1,2; II Corinthians 9:6-8).

ARTICLE VIII
Government

Section1. - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Church shall consist of the Pastor, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section2. - Official Board

The Pastor, together with the Board of Deacons shall constitute the Official Church Board.

Section3. - Board of Deacons

The board of Deacons, consisting of not less than three members, shall function under the leadership of the Pastor and shall be responsible primarily for the business and material affairs of the church. Of this Board of Deacons, one shall serve as Secretary and one as Treasurer, selected and appointed by, and from the Board of Deacons.

Section4. - Board of Elders

The Board or Elders, consisting of not less than 3 members, shall function with the Pastor and shall be responsible primarily for the spiritual oversight of the church.

ARTICLE IX
Meetings

Section1. - Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Official Church Board.

Section2. - Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly. This meeting shall be held during the month of September. The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting. The fiscal year shall end on July 31 of each year.

Section3. - Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the pastor or by the Secretary of the Assembly, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Deacons. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the Assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the Church should request the help of the District Officiary.

Section4. - Quorum

No record of any special or regular business meeting of the Assembly shall be made unless forty percent of active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section5. - The Official Church Board

The Official Church Board shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business or the Assembly, time and place to be agreed upon by the Official Church Board.

Section6. - The Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall meet monthly for prayer and to discuss their ministry.

ARTICLE X
Departments and Committees

Departments and Committees may be formed under the direction and advisement of the Official Church Board and/or Board of Elders as deemed necessary to fulfill the needs of the whole Man - spiritual, physical, mental (academic) or social.

ARTICLE XI
Property

Section1. - Control of Deeds

All property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No real property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of, nor shall such property be purchased in the name of the Assembly without the same having first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the Assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section2. - Defection

In the event defection shall occur from the Tenets of Faith of this Church as the same are stated in the statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or from affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the aforesaid Tenets of Faith and retaining membership with the Assemblies of God shall retain possession of, and title to, all properties of said Church with full rights thereto as provided in its Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3 - Termination or Dissolution

In the event that this corporation ceases to function as an Assemblies of God church or is dissolved for any reason, its assets shall be distributed to The Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God, 9930 Evergreen Way, Suite Y-150, Everett, Washington, 98204, provided it qualifies at such time for exemption as an organization described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or a successor statute. In the event that the Northwest District Council does not so qualify, then the assets of this corporation shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, provided it qualifies at such time for exemption as an organization described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or a successor statute.

ARTICLE XII
Right of Initiative

Any member may exercise the right of initiative in the calling of a special business meeting of the Church by presenting a request, signed by at least one-third of the legal voting membership of the Church, to the Pastor or the Secretary of the Church, who shall proceed to issue a call for said meeting as prescribed in Article IX, Section 3, of this Constitution.

Article XIII
Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be originated by or submitted to the Boards of Deacons and Elders for presentation to the membership. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Tenets of Faith, which stand regardless of majority, unless they are amended by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Such amendments shall be presented at the next Church Business Meeting for ratification by the membership.

BY-LAWS

Article I
Qualifications and Duties of Officers

Section 1 - Senior Pastor

- a) Qualifications: He shall be an ordained Assemblies of God minister, meeting the standards outlined for Elders in Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:1-4; Ephesians 4:11; and Acts 20:28.
- b) Duties: The Senior Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the President of the Corporation and shall act as Chairman of all the business meetings of the Assembly, of the Official Church Board and of the Board of Elders. He shall be an ex officio member of all Committees or Departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.

Section 2 - Associate Pastor(s)

- a) Qualifications: Associate Pastor(s) shall be a licensed or ordained Assemblies of God minister, meeting the scriptural standards outlined above for a Senior Pastor.
- b) Duties: Associate Pastors shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor for duties, assignments and accountability. The Senior Pastor shall delegate one of his associates to take over pastoral leadership responsibilities in his absence. He may also delegate an Associate Pastor to attend committee meetings as an ex officio member in his place.

Section 3 - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, consisting of the Pastor, Secretary and Treasurer, shall meet upon such occasions as warranted in the transaction of legal matters determined by the action of the Assembly and ordered by the Official Church Board.

Section 4 - Deacons

- a) Qualifications: Deacons shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall at all times be expected to meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3. They shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. They shall be at least 23 years of age, and shall have been members of the Assembly for at least one year at the time of their selection.
- b) Duties: The Board of Deacons is chosen to serve the Church. They shall have oversight of the needy and the widows. They shall be charged with the receiving and disbursement of finances, and shall be trustees over all properties and corporate business matters, and shall conduct the same in a wise and scriptural manner. They shall further provide for the maintenance and care of all the real property of the church. They shall assist, as needed, in the ordinance ceremonies of the church, and in prayer for the sick. Together with the Board of Elders they shall consider for approval all membership applications. They shall meet monthly.
- c) A majority present at any meeting of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the Assembly is temporarily without a Pastor, or the Pastor is unable to be present, the Board of Deacons shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business for the Assembly.

Section 5 - Deaconesses

The wives of all Deacons shall be considered Deaconesses, and shall assist in the church wherever necessary, under the leadership of the Senior Pastor's wife, who shall serve as their chairperson. In the event a deacon has no wife, or his wife is unable to serve, the Deacon Board shall appoint a replacement Deaconess.

Section 6 - Elders

- a) Qualifications: Elders shall be men of mature spiritual development, who by life and by counsel are able to assist in leading and shepherding the flock of God. They shall at all times be expected to meet the scriptural standards set forth in I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:2-3. They shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. They shall be at least 40 years of age, and have been a member of Valley Assembly for a minimum of 1 year at the time of their appointment.
- b) Duties: Elders shall assist the Pastor(s) in all matters that arise related to the spiritual health and well being of the congregation. They shall assist in the ordinance ceremonies of the church. Together with the Pastor(s) they shall administer church discipline when needed. Together with the Deacons, they shall consider for approval all membership applications, and shall give counsel to the Deacon Board in matters mutually agreed upon. Together with their wives, they shall involve themselves in prayer for the sick and needy, in spiritual counsel, and in visitation whenever possible.

- c) A majority present at any meeting of the Board of Elders shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the Assembly is temporarily without a Pastor, or the Pastor is unable to be present, the Board of Elders shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to carry out its assigned responsibilities.

Section 7. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Deacons and of the annual and special business meetings of the Assembly. He shall keep a record of the membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and the corporate seal.

Section 8. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly. He, or his designee(s) as approved by the Official Church Board, shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the Assembly, shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Official Church Board, and shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He shall present an itemized report at the regular meetings of the Official Board. His accounts may be audited under the direction of the Official Board.

Section 9. Liability of Officers (Directors)

The personal liability of an Officer (Director) to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for conduct as a director is eliminated and limited to the maximum extent permitted by the corporation laws of the State of Washington, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended.

Article II Nominations, Elections, and Selections

Section I. - Pastor

- a) The Pastor shall be nominated by the Board of Deacons after consultation with the District Officer regarding available candidates.
- b) Only one candidate shall be voted upon at a time at the Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority of the legal voting membership present shall be required to constitute an election.
- c) The Pastor's initial term shall be for a period of three years, with the first term of office dating from the nearest Annual Business Meeting. The incumbent Pastor shall be voted on for re-election when his initial term expires. A two-thirds majority vote of the legal voting membership present shall be required for re-election, which shall be for an indefinite term.

Section 2 - Nominating Committee

- a) The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Official Board.

- b) The members of the Nominating Committee shall be selected as follows:
 - 1) Pastor and one Board Member
 - 2) Three qualified and knowledgeable members of the Assembly
- c) They shall meet at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- d) They shall present to the Assembly a printed list containing the names of candidates for office, which they have prayerfully selected as persons being qualified for selection to office.

Section 3 - Deacons

- a) The Board of Deacons shall consist of seven men.
- b) Selection of the Board of Deacons shall proceed as follows:
 - (1) Names of qualified men shall be presented to the Assembly by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Business Meeting.
 - (2) Their term shall be for three years, and there shall be no limit to the number of successive terms to which a Deacon may be nominated and selected.
- c) The deacons shall be selected from the list of candidates submitted to the membership by means of a drawing similar to Acts 1:21-26.

Section 4 - Secretary and Treasurer

- a) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed from among the Deacons by the official Board.
- b) The appointment of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be for a one-year term, at which time they may be re-appointed, or a successor chosen.

Section 5 - Elders

Elders shall be nominated by the Board of Elders, and be appointed by the Official Church Board. Their term of office shall be for two years, and there shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms an Elder is able to serve.

Section 6 - Selection of Officers

- a) Candidates for any office shall have been a member of the Assembly for at least one year as of the date they would assume office.
- b) The selection of all offices shall take place at the Annual Business Meeting of the Church.

Section 7 - Quorum (Boards and Committees)

A majority of the membership of any Board or Committee present at any of their regular or special business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article III Vacancies and Discipline

Section 1 - Pastor

- a) When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur for any reason, a supply shall be arranged for by the Board of Deacons until a pastor shall be chosen, as described in Article II of the by-laws.
- b) In the event a Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, responsibility is vested in the Board of Deacons, after consultation with the Board of Elders, to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board of Deacons has been sustained by a majority vote of the legal voting membership present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose, such meeting to be presided over by a District Officer. In the case of the Pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the District Council office.

Section 2 - Other Officers

- a) In the event a Deacon shall resign before the end of his term, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the official Church board.
- b) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Official Church Board at any regular or special business meeting. In the event that an office is vacated, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Official Church Board.
- c) Grounds for such action shall be: (1) Unscriptural conduct; (2) departure from the Tenets of Faith; (3) incompetence in office.
- d) A complaint may be lodged against an incumbent in office and brought before the Church for action by any member exercising the right of initiative as described in Article XII of the Constitution, or upon the recommendation of the Official Board.
- e) Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a hearing of his case before the Assembly, if he so requests.

Article IV Membership

Section 1 - Requirements for Membership

The requirements for membership in this Church shall be:

- a) Evidence of a genuine experience in Regeneration (the New Birth). (John 1:12,13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25).
- b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13,14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2,15; I John 1:6,7).
- c) To fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article III of the Constitution.
- d) Willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the Church.

- e) All applicants for membership shall have attended regularly for a minimum period of 3 months prior to approval for membership.
- f) Divorce and re-marriage
 1. There are now among Christian people those who were divorced and remarried previous to their conversion and Scriptural enlightenment, and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these cases be left in the hands of the Lord, and that they walk in the light as God lets it shine on their soul.
 2. Low standards of marriage and divorce are very hurtful to the individual, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teachings of the Holy Scriptures.
 3. Therefore, be it resolved that all persons eligible for Church membership who have been divorced shall be permitted fellowship and membership in this Church with the following restrictions: no divorced and remarried person shall be permitted the right to hold the office of Elder or Deacon. (I Timothy 3:12; Titus 1:6).

The motive of this Assembly in adopting the above resolution is not to inflict further suffering and inconvenience on any beloved fellow Christians who have become involved in divorce; but rather, to maintain a high standard for present and future conduct of all its members.

Section 2 - Reception of Members

- a) Persons desiring to become active members of the Church shall make the fact known to the Pastor. He, or his designee, shall examine the applicant according to the requirements for membership (see Article IV, Section 1 of the By-laws), and who shall acquaint them more fully with the beliefs, practices and government of the Church.
- b) The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership, with his recommendation, to the Boards of Deacons and Elders, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the Church publicly at any of the regular Church services, and their names inscribed on the Church roster.

Section 3 - Responsibilities of Members

A member of Valley Assembly of God is responsible to:

- a) Pray regularly for the Church and its leaders
- b) Attend regularly its services and activities for worship, learning and fellowship
- c) Seek to live out what is taught
- d) Give regularly of tithes and offerings
- e) Seek to find a place of meaningful ministry.

Section 4 - Categories of Members

- a) Voting Membership
All those who have been formally accepted for membership shall constitute the legal voting membership of the Assembly, provided they are 18 years of age or over, that they regularly attend and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony and continue to meet all other requirements for membership in good standing. Persons who absent themselves from the services of the Church for periods of time for legitimate reasons may maintain their status as voting members if a letter of request, addressed to the Official Church Board, is approved.
- b) Inactive Membership
Members who are not able to attend due to prolonged ill health shall be transferred to the "Inactive Member" role.
- c) Junior Membership
Membership shall be available to young people from the age of 13 through 17, who give evidence of the New Birth, having received Christ as personal Savior, and who meet the usual qualifications for membership established by this Assembly (see Article IV, Section I of the By-laws). They shall have no voting privileges until they automatically become voting members at age 18.
- d) Honorary Members
Honorary members shall consist of those members who have entered the Ministry as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, or those serving in the Armed Services or students away from home, making it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home Assembly. (Voting privilege may be granted at the discretion of the Official Church Board).
- e) Termination of Membership
Members who shall, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the Assembly of a period of three consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall have their membership suspended, pending further action by the Official Church Board, as recommended by the Board of Elders. Such actions shall be conveyed in writing to the affected member within 15 days of the action.

Section 5 - Discipline of Members

- a) Any member of the Church who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three (3) consecutive months (unless they meet the exception in Article IV, Section 4 (a) of the Bylaws) or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership, pending investigation and final decision in his case.
- b) The following shall be considered sufficient grounds for disqualifying a person as member:
 - (1) Unscriptural conduct or departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this Assembly (Article III of the Constitution) (Romans 16:17,18; Galatians 1:8,9; I Timothy 6:3-5; II Timothy 1:13; Titus 3:10-11; Jude 3).
 - (2) Refusal to change from a life of sin. (I Corinthians 5:11-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-18; II Thessalonians 3:6).

- (3) Engaging in the disruption of fellowship by sowing discord among the brethren, persisting in gossip, or disrupting the unity of the Church. (Proverbs 6:16-19; I Corinthians 1:10; 3:3; Hebrews 12:14,15; James 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:1-6).

Section 6 - Complaints and Procedures

- a) Any complaint against a member shall be given to a Pastor or a member of the Elder Board.
- b) The Pastor, together with the Board of Elders, will seek to settle the matter according to the Scriptures. If any further action is required, the Board of Elders will take action as described in this section (I Corinthians 6:1-5; Matthew 18:15-22; Mark 11:25).
- c) Before disciplinary action is taken by the Board of Elders, a member charged shall be given the right of a full hearing before the Board of Elders, including the right to face their accuser(s). If the suspected offending member does not appear, he/she forfeits his/her appeal rights, except in the case of illness or other legitimate reason. Notice of this initial hearing, which includes charges and the time and place of the hearing, must be given the member in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.
- d) Persons who are under charges or whose conduct is unbecoming as Christians, shall be temporarily suspended from membership, teaching, or any function of leadership, until their case is fully considered by the Board of Elders. If Scriptural reproof and correction is rejected by such members and they continue in an unchristian attitude, the name of such member shall be removed from the official Church roster.
- e) Notice of the action taken by the Board of Elders shall be mailed to the member involved within seven (7) days after the ruling.
- f) Any disciplined member may appeal to the Board of Elders for reconsideration of its action. This appeal must be filed in writing with the Pastor within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice of the initial action.
- g) If the Board of Elders' previous action is not reversed, the disciplined member may appeal for a hearing before the entire Assembly. This appeal must be filed in writing with the Secretary of the Official Church Board within fifteen (15) days after the reconsideration meeting.
- h) Within thirty (30) days after receipt by the Secretary of a request for a hearing, an Assembly meeting shall be held to take action on the appeal. A majority vote, by secret ballot, of the legal voting members voting at the hearing shall determine final disposition of the case.
- i) Any disciplinary action would become effective when the appeal process has been exhausted.

Article V Finance

Section 1 - Banking

All moneys received from offerings and all other sources shall be deposited by the Treasurer or his designee(s) in a bank designated by the Official Board.

Section 2 - Disbursement

The disbursement of all funds shall be under the supervision of the Official Board.

Section 3 - Pastoral Remuneration

The Pastor(s) and staff shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined annually by the Official Church Board.

Article VI Departments

All departments shall be under the general oversight of the Pastor and Board of Elders, who shall annually appoint departmental leaders. As a part of the church's Annual Report booklet, each department shall make a yearly report to the congregation of their past year's activities and their plans and goals for the coming year.

a) Education Ministries

There shall be a Department of Education designed to minister to the spiritual and academic demands of the membership. The Department of Education shall be conducted as an inseparable and integral part of all the Church activities.

b) Youth Ministries

There shall be a Department of Youth designed specifically to meet the current issues and special needs of modern-day youth and to provide an atmosphere for spiritual growth and development, evangelism and fellowship.

c) Men's and Women's Ministries

There shall be Men's and Women's Departments which shall be designed to provide opportunities for ministry, fellowship and service in the local Church and to advance the cause of foreign and home missions.

Section 2 - Other Departments

As need arises, other Departments or Committees may be established.

Section 3 - Relationship

All Departments and Committees shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole.

Article VII Property Rights

Section 1 - Corporate Ownership

- a) All property, real or chattel shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the Church or Corporate name.
- b) Change of property status
No real property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds vote of the legal voting membership of the Assembly present at any regular or special business meeting.

Article VIII
Amendments

Amendments to the By-laws may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the legal voting membership of the Assembly present at any of its regular or special business meetings. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given as prescribed in Article XIII of the Constitution.

EXHORTATIONS TO HOLY LIVING

Every Christian lives with Jesus on one side of him, and the world on the other side. Each beckon to us to come closer to them. Every day we make choices as to which of the two we will follow. Some Christians seem to want to see how close to the world they can live while still being a Christian. Others turn their back on the world and follow after Jesus with all their heart. The following exhortations are written to encourage you to turn your back on the world and all it represents, and turn your face fully toward Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:12-14).

1. Since we have both a spiritual nature and a carnal, sinful nature: (Romans 8:5-8; Galatians 5:16)

We must do those things that will feed and strengthen our spiritual nature, such as regular reading of the Scriptures, regular times of prayer and praise to God, fellowshiping with other Christians. (Colossians 3:16; 4:2; Hebrews 10:24-5; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Galatians 6:7-8).

We must stay away from anything that arouses and feeds and strengthens our sinful nature, such as movies and videos and magazines and books and music and television programs that are sexually explicit, that show explicit violence, that are verbally profane, or that depict sin as being acceptable. (1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:5-10; Galatians 5:16-17, 24; Romans 13:13-14).

2. Since our mind can be an instrument for either good or evil: (Titus 1:15)

We must discipline our minds, and let them dwell only on thoughts that would please God: things that are good, and pure, and right, and true. (2 Corinthians 10:5; Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:1-3).

We must not let our mind dwell on thoughts that would be immoral, degrading, discouraging, depressing, or that would create and encourage doubts, fears, envy or resentment. (Romans 1:28; 8:5-8).

3. Since our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:18-20)

We must care for it by giving it proper nutrition, rest and exercise, and must save our sexual experiences for marriage. We must offer the parts of our body to God as instruments of righteousness. (Romans 6:12-13; 12:1; I Timothy 4:8; Mark 6:31; Philippians 1:20; I Thessalonians 5:23; I Corinthians 6:13).

We must avoid those things that would have a detrimental effect on our body, such as the use of tobacco in any form, overeating, illegal drugs in any form. (I Corinthians 3:16-17; 9:27; Romans 8:13).

4. Since we can experience emotions and attitudes that are unholy as well as those that are holy:

We must learn to cultivate and enjoy holy emotions and attitudes, such as joy, contentment, optimism and hope. (Galatians 5:22-23; I Timothy 6:6; I Thessalonians 5:16)

We must learn to discern unholy emotions and attitudes such as anger, fear, worry, pessimism, greed, resentment, lust, homosexual feelings; we need to discipline them, bring them to Jesus, and not allow them to dictate how we act. (Philippians 4:6; James 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 1:7).

5. Since others may very well follow our example:

We must follow in the footsteps of Jesus, attempting to be like Him in every way possible, such as humility, servanthood, honesty, compassion, keeping our word, being thankful, spreading the Gospel. (Philippians 2:5-8; Romans 8:29; I Timothy 4:12; I Thessalonians 5:18; Luke 19:10; Mark 16:15).

We must do nothing that would make us a stumbling block to others, such as the use of alcohol, gambling, profane language, immodest dress, secular dancing. (Romans 14 [esp. v.13]; I Corinthians 8:9-13; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; I Timothy 2:9; Proverbs 13:11; Matthew 12:36-37).