



## **District Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that 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 that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members, an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;
- (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a district council; and
- (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

#### **Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies**

A church that the District Executive Committee, according to policies approved by the District Presbytery, has granted recognition as an Assemblies of God church, but that has not yet been granted recognition as a General Council affiliated assembly, shall be a District Council affiliated assembly. Such assemblies shall be under the general supervision of the District Executive Committee and the appropriate Sectional Committee, which may provide for pastoral care until such assemblies proceed to General Council affiliated status. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies. When they meet the qualifications for such recognition, the District shall initiate and guide the application process.

## **General Council Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation**

It shall be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting

membership of 20 persons. The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

- a. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the district in which it is located. The district council shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.
- b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the district who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and bylaws acceptable to the district.
- c. An existing, mature church that desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the district council for guidance and assistance.
- d. Upon approval by the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the general secretary. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final.