

NORTH CAROLINA ASSEMBLIES OF GOD BYLAWS

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ARTICLE I ESSENTIAL RELATIONSHIP

SECTION 1. The North Carolina Assemblies of God (NCAG) shall recognize itself as an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are in Springfield, Missouri, and be subject to the General Council as the parent body.

SECTION 2. The local churches of the NCAG shall recognize and be subject to NCAG as set forth in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE II CORE BELIEFS

NCAG wholeheartedly subscribes to the Statement of Fundamental Truths as written in Article V of the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and Article VII of the Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God related to marriage. NCAG recognizes these doctrinal statements as the basis of fellowship in the Assemblies of God.

The following statements are adopted in harmony with, and as an application of, the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and are intended to provide doctrinal clarity for fellowship, credentialing, and accountability within NCAG.

Gender

Man was created by God, male and female, in God's own image and innocent of any sin. Male (man) and female (woman) are the only God-ordained genders, and neither man, woman, nor any government has the authority to alter the identity or structure of these God-ordained genders. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. The rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Sexuality & Abuse

The Scriptures limit the expression of human sexuality to the marital relationship of one man with one woman, the only legitimate and acceptable sexual relationship. The Church also abhors, detests, and does not tolerate sexual abuse of any kind, nature, or behavior, whether physical, mental, or emotional.

Sanctity of Human Life

We believe in the sanctity of human life, that God determines the boundaries of life and holds in His hands the beginning and end of human life. He is active in the conception of life and the conclusion of life, in birth and in death. This truth imparts extraordinary value to every life, independent of gender, race, socioeconomic position, age, or health status. Those who hold to biblical creation must attach great worth to human life and will stand in its defense.

We believe the sanctity of human life as established by God the Creator and believe that such sanctity extends to all people including the child not yet born, mentally and physically challenged, and those who are at the conclusion of their life here on earth. Life is a gift from God and should

be afforded to Him.

All human life, including life developing in the womb, is created by God in His image and is, therefore, to be nurtured, supported, and protected. From the moment of conception, a child is a human being with all the developing characteristics of human life, and this life is dependent on the mother for its continued development. Therefore, we believe that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. As such, NCAG calls for persons to practice the ethic of the New Testament as it bears upon human sexuality and to deal with the issue of abortion by placing it within the larger framework of biblical principles that guide moral decision-making.

ARTICLE III PURPOSES

The NCAG is organized and operated exclusively for religious and educational purposes in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law and referred to herein as the "Code"). More specifically, the NCAG's purpose is as follows:

SECTION 1. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove all unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.

SECTION 2. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world by all scriptural means.

SECTION 3. To set forth a basis of Christian fellowship and provide for counsel and cooperation among those of like precious faith.

SECTION 4. To establish and develop assemblies in accordance with New Testament standards and principles.

SECTION 5. To examine and certify ministerial candidates who shall meet the standards of Scripture (I Timothy 3:7; Titus 1:5-9) and requirements of the NCAG as set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws, and to assume the oversight of all ministerial matters in the NCAG.

SECTION 6. To select its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself in conformity with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.

SECTION 7. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel.

SECTION 8. To own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, rent, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be useful for the prosecution of its work.

SECTION 9. To empower ministers to reach their potential, equip churches to impact their communities, and engage generations to inspire each other in advancing the Kingdom of God among men.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Members

Members of NCAG are ecclesiastical members of a religious fellowship and, as such, are **not** statutory members as defined by the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act. Their rights and privileges are limited to those expressly set forth in these Bylaws.

SECTION 2. Constituency

The membership of the NCAG shall consist of all ministers holding a current fellowship certificate with the General Council and whose residence is in North Carolina. Exceptions may be made for those affiliated as missionaries, evangelists, staff members of Assemblies of God colleges, institutions, and approved agencies, or employees of the General Council. In addition, all members of duly affiliated Assemblies of God churches are members of NCAG.

SECTION 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency of the NCAG shall be composed of all members holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered at a duly called business session; and of such delegates present and registered, as may be chosen by the membership churches, each church being entitled to one delegate.

SECTION 4. Extraordinary Circumstances

In extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the NCAG Board of Trustees, the NCAG Board of Trustees may authorize a release from the requirement of physical presence of members and delegates and employ electronic media for the conduct of necessary business with NCAG members.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Regular Conference

The NCAG shall meet for a biennial conference in the intermediate year between General Council sessions and at other such times and places as may be determined by the Board of Trustees and announced not later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 2. Special Sessions

Special sessions of the NCAG may be initiated in one of two ways: (a) by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Trustees. Special sessions called in this manner shall be announced to all members of the NCAG no later than fifteen (15) days before the meeting; or (b) by any ordained minister of

the NCAG who produces a statement setting forth reasons for the special session and that is signed by not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the ordained ministers of the NCAG. The statement shall be filed with the Board of Trustees, which shall issue the call, setting the time and place for the meeting.

SECTION 3. Quorum

Ten percent (10%) of the NCAG voting constituency shall constitute a quorum for business meetings.

SECTION 4. Regional Meetings

Meetings of credentialed ministers in a particular area may be held at such times and for such purposes as may be determined by the Superintendent.

SECTION 5. Rules of Procedure

To expedite the work of the NCAG in its deliberations, the Council shall be governed by accepted rules of Parliamentary procedure, all in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be accepted as the final authority.

SECTION 6. Order of Business

The recommended order of business for the biennial NCAG Council is:

- ï The report of the Roster Committee
- ï The report of the Superintendent
- ï The report of the Assistant Superintendent/Secretary
- ï The report of other officers
- ï Election of officers with reports of committees and the presentation of resolutions between ballots
- ï Unfinished business
- ï New business
- ï Adjournment

SECTION 7. Manner of Acting

The NCAG members shall only have the voting rights identified in these Bylaws. The vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be sufficient to constitute the act of the members, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. Composition and Qualifications

The Board of Trustees shall consist of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/Secretary, one member from each of NCAG's geographical regions, the Directors of the two NCAG Ethnic Fellowships, and up to eight members who bring diversity and/or unique experience to the Board. These members shall be ordained ministers of maturity and ability, whose lives and ministries are above question. They shall have been affiliated with the Assemblies of God for three years, and with the NCAG for one year. All Board members shall cooperate fully with the financial policies of the NCAG.

SECTION 2. Selection and Term

All members of the Board of Trustees shall be nominated by the Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Committee and submitted for ratification by the NCAG members to serve a four-year term. In making nominations to the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent shall consider spiritual maturity, ministry experience, diversity of background, and regional representation, and may receive recommendations from ministers of the district.

Members of the Board of Trustees are ratified by a majority vote of the members during the biennial council.

SECTION 3. Term Limits

ï Consecutive Term Limit

No trustee may serve more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms.

ï Eligibility After Hiatus

A trustee who has served two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election only after a minimum absence of one (1) year from the Board.

ï Exceptions

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the trustees then in office, permit a trustee to serve an additional consecutive term.

SECTION 4. Resignation and Removal

A Trustee may resign by providing written notice to the Superintendent.

A Trustee may also be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Trustees at a meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 5. Vacancies

In the event of vacancies among the members of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Officers shall submit a nominee to the Board of Trustees for ratification by a 2/3 vote of the Board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of office.

SECTION 6. Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees shall have the following responsibilities.

- ï To assist the Superintendent in the spiritual directives of the NCAG.
- ï To provide leadership and accountability for the ministries of the NCAG.
- ï To appoint committees, receive committee recommendations, and to act on recommendations as necessary.
- ï To act in all matters affecting the interests of the NCAG between sessions.
- ï To ratify and/or appoint pastors of the NCAG-affiliated assemblies and make other necessary and prescribed appointments.
- ï To serve as the Credentials Committee and to provide for the selection of the Credential Interview Committees.
- ï To serve as the Finance Committee of the NCAG and to appoint a Budget Committee of qualified ministers and laymen, in addition to the Executive Officers, to prepare a general operations budget to be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Included in the committee's work shall be a review and recommendation on the salaries of paid officials.
- ï To approve the minutes of the NCAG at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees and authorize publication of the same.
- ï To periodically review regional boundaries and make recommendations of proposed changes, when deemed beneficial, and to present such recommendations to the next business session of the NCAG.
- ï To provide for the review, approval, and implementation of policies of NCAG, and to provide policy statements and procedural manuals necessary for the effective management of NCAG.
- ï To review and approve job descriptions of officers, departmental directors, and other staff as necessary.

SECTION 7. Board of Trustees Meetings

The Board of Trustees shall meet quarterly and at other such times as deemed necessary by the Superintendent, with or without notice.

- ï **Quorum.** A majority of members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

- ï **Manner of Acting.** The vote of a majority of the Trustees present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be sufficient to constitute the act of the Board of Trustees unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the Bylaws. A Trustee who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered to be present and voting for the purpose of determining the decision of the Board of Trustees.
- ï **Electronic Meetings.** Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone, videoconference, or similar communication equipment, as long as all Trustees participating in the meeting can hear one another. All Trustees will be deemed to be present in person at a meeting conducted in accordance with the foregoing sentence.
- ï **Action without a Meeting.** Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees may be taken without a meeting if all of the Trustees consent in writing to the action. Such action by written consent or consents will be filed with the minutes of the proceeding of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VII NCAG DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. Composition

NCAG shall be comprised of no less than eight (8) geographical divisions as determined by the NCAG Officers in consultation with the Board of Trustees and reported to the constituency.

SECTION 2. Non-Regional Ethnic Fellowships.

NCAG recognizes the following Ethnic Fellowships:

- ï Hispanic Fellowship, which shall consist of the entire Hispanic population of the state.
- ï Native American Fellowship, which shall consist of the entire Native American population of the state.

Directors of NCAG Ethnic Fellowships shall be nominated by the Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Committee and ratified by a majority vote of the ministers and church delegates present at a duly called meeting of that fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Executive Officers

The executive officers of NCAG shall be the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent/Secretary. The executive officers shall be ordained ministers of mature

experience and ability whose lives and ministries are above question. They shall have been affiliated with the Assemblies of God for three years, with the NCAG for one year, and shall have cooperated with the financial policies of the NCAG.

(a) Superintendent General Responsibilities

- ï To act as president and trustee of the corporation in all legal matters.
- ï To preside at all business sessions of the NCAG, Board of Trustees, and Executive Committee, and to establish the agenda for these meetings.
- ï To give an account for all NCAG funds.
- ï To select, employ, and supervise the leadership of NCAG departments.
- ï To select, employ, and supervise regional NCAG consultants.
- ï To perform any other function, usual and customary, for the presiding officer or such as may be directed by the Board of Trustees or the NCAG in session.
- ï The Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- ï To execute and deliver deeds, mortgages, encumbrances, contracts, and any other documents affecting real estate now or hereafter owned or held in trust by the NCAG, as well as any other properties or interests which may revert to the NCAG, as hereinafter authorized. Such conveyances, deeds, mortgages, encumbrances, contracts, and other documents shall be attested by the Assistant Superintendent/Secretary.

(b) Supervision of the NCAG Finance Director, whose role and responsibilities are as follows:

- ï The Finance Director shall report to the Superintendent.
- ï To receive and record all money to be used for the work of the NCAG and to make disbursements as directed.
- ï To keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements, and shall conduct the work of their office according to accepted methods of business.
- ï To give a report from time to time and to perform such other duties as may be requested by the Superintendent or Board of Trustees.
- ï The financial director shall be bonded and shall present his/her books for audit or review as prescribed in Article XI. Section 1.

- ï To assist in the formulation of budgets and serve as a member of the Finance Committee.
- ï To act as a resource person to committees.
- ï To supervise the day-to-day operations of the office.

(c) Assistant Superintendent/Secretary Responsibilities

- ï To act as vice-president/secretary of the corporation in legal matters and shall be authorized, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, to execute and deliver legal documents on behalf of the corporation in the event the office of Superintendent is vacant, or if the Superintendent is incapacitated and unable to execute and deliver legal documents.
- ï To assist the Superintendent as directed.
- ï To perform any other function, usual and customary, for the Assistant Superintendent/Secretary or such as may be directed by the Board of Trustees or the NCAG in session.
- ï To act as Corporate Secretary of the corporation, attesting all legal documents.
- ï To be the custodian of the seal of the NCAG and maintain oversight of the credentialing process.
- ï To keep a record of the proceedings of the NCAG in session, Board of Trustees meetings, and Executive Committee meetings.

SECTION 2. General Presbyters

The General Presbyters shall be the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/Secretary, and one member of the Board of Trustees appointed by the Superintendent and ratified by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The responsibilities of the General Presbyters are as follows:

- ï To represent NCAG interests on the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- ï To function in other such capacities, usual and customary for General Presbyters.

SECTION 3. Nomination and Election

The Superintendent shall be nominated by the members at one of the biennial NCAG Conference meetings by secret ballot.

When the office of Assistant Superintendent/Secretary's four-year term is completed, or a

vacancy occurs, the names of up to three ministers with bios, nominated by the Board of Trustees, shall be presented to the NCAG in session prior to the beginning of the electoral process. Candidates who shall receive a two-thirds majority on the nominating ballot shall be declared elected.

If there is no election on the nominating ballot, after the second electoral ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be balloted upon until there is an election. After the fifth electoral ballot, the candidate with the simple majority of votes shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Term

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent/Secretary shall serve as full-time officers of NCAG for a term of four years each, their terms of office being staggered. No person shall be eligible to serve in more than one elective office at a time.

The Executive officers shall be limited to serve up to three consecutive four-year terms, after which they shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office for one election cycle, except in the case that he/she is elected to a fourth term on the nominating ballot. A Superintendent, having served three terms and falling short of election on the nominating ballot for a fourth term, will be dropped from the ballot before the first electoral ballot is cast.

The Assistant Superintendent/Secretary, having served three terms and not being elected on the first elective ballot for a fourth term, will have their name removed from the second electoral ballot.

SECTION 5. Vacancies

If the office of the Superintendent becomes vacant for any reason, the Assistant Superintendent shall fill the office of Superintendent until a special business session of the NCAG is called to elect a new Superintendent by a two-thirds vote. This special session shall be called by the Board of Trustees within 60 days of the vacancy and chaired by an executive officer of the General Council.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Assistant Superintendent/Secretary, the Board of Trustees shall fill the position by appointment until the next NCAG business session.

SECTION 6. General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyter Nominees

The NCAG shall nominate two ordained ministers from its membership, one of whom shall be the Superintendent. The second nominee shall not be an elected full-time NCAG official. The Superintendent and non-officer nominee shall be presented to the General Council as nominees to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and approved by a majority vote of the same.

ARTICLE IX MINISTERS

SECTION 1. Classification of Ministers

Ministers shall be classified as certified, licensed, or ordained.

SECTION 2. Qualifications of Ministers at All Classifications

- ï Applicants shall evidence a scriptural born-again experience and shall have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- ï Applicants shall give testimony of a divine calling and evidence a desire to progress in ministry.
- ï Applicants shall live blameless Christian lives and give evidence of a good reputation.
- ï Applicants shall be thoroughly conversant and in agreement with the Assemblies of God doctrinal positions.
- ï Applicants shall have attended Bible College or completed prescribed Bible courses.
- ï Applicants shall be willing to accept and be governed by the General Council and NCAG Constitutions and Bylaws.

SECTION 3. Qualifications for Ordained Ministers

- ï Applicants shall be at least twenty-three years of age.
- ï Applicants shall have been licensed and engaged in active ministry for at least two full consecutive years.
- ï Applicants shall give evidence of the blessing and confirmation of God upon their ministry.
- ï Applicants shall appear before the NCAG Credential Interview Committee and pass a written examination as prescribed by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- ï Applicants shall give evidence of planning for engagement in full-time ministry.
- ï Applicants shall be approved by the General Council Credentials Committee prior to being ordained by the Board of Trustees. This includes receiving and recognizing the ordination of a minister from another denomination.
- ï Applicants shall be ordained at the biennial meeting of the NCAG or at other such times as arranged by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4. Qualifications for Licensed Ministers

- i Applicants shall be at least eighteen years of age.
- i Applicants shall appear before the NCAG Credentials Interview Committee and pass a written examination as prescribed by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

SECTION 5. Qualifications for Certified Ministers

- i Applicants shall be at least seventeen years of age.
- i Applicants shall indicate a call to service apart from ministry in their local assemblies and shall be efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service.
- i Applicants shall appear before the NCAG Credentials Interview Committee and pass a written examination as prescribed by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- i A certificate of ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements, but who is deemed by the NCAG Credentials Interview Committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or ministry outreach for which a duly credentialed and qualified minister is unavailable. The applicant must meet all requirements of the General Council Bylaws regarding provisional issuance. The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one (1) year and shall not be renewed more than two times.

SECTION 6. Issuance of Credentials

- i All credentials for approved candidates shall be issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- i All credentials shall be subject to renewal annually on satisfactory completion of the General Council renewal form and questionnaire.
- i Satisfactory completion of the constitutional provisions alone shall not be considered sufficient grounds for issuance or renewal of any credentials, but general fitness shall also be considered necessary for issuance or renewal of credentials.
- i All credential holders who reach at least sixty-five years of age and who are no longer engaged in full-time ministry shall be recognized as senior retired upon his/her request or the request of the NCAG. The annual renewal of his/her credentials shall regularly take place without regard to ministerial activities.

SECTION 7. Ministerial Prerogatives

- ï All credentialed ministers shall be authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the Assemblies of God in accordance with applicable laws.
- ï No minister of the NCAG shall be authorized to perform a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in ARTICLE IX of the General Council Bylaws.

ARTICLE X MINISTERIAL RELATIONS

SECTION 1. General Guidelines

- ï All ministers shall be subject to and guided by the General Council Constitution and Bylaws provisions relating to matters of discipline, ministerial relations, and conduct.
- ï All ministers shall be accountable to the Board of Trustees in doctrine and conduct.
- ï Ministers accepting ministry in non-Assemblies of God churches shall comply with the General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 9.
- ï No minister shall make contact to begin a church until the minister is approved by the Board of Trustees. Ministers proposing to plant or affiliate a new church shall follow established policies and procedures for NCAG church planting.

SECTION 2. Discipline

- ï All matters relating to discipline, conduct of ministers, and ministerial relations shall be referred to the Superintendent.
- ï Ministers who shall be under charge, or whose ministry shall be questioned, shall be subject to provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with privileges and appeals as provided therein.
- ï Discipline and rehabilitation shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of the General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE X. Discipline.

ARTICLE XI FINANCES

SECTION 1. Supervision

All finances of the NCAG and its departments, branches, and agencies shall be under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, who shall provide for an annual audit or review of all funds

by a certified public accountant. They shall furnish a report of the audit/review to the NCAG at the biennial council.

SECTION 2. Tithing

NCAG endorses the biblical principle of tithing (Mal. 3:8,10) and subscribes to the position that the ministries of NCAG should be supported by the tithes/dues and offerings of the ministers and churches and by such other means as may be necessary and proper.

SECTION 3. Contributions to General Council

Ordained and licensed ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute to the General Council an amount (as established by the General Council) from their tithes/dues, as an offering, or through their influence. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the established amount, either personally or through the Assemblies they pastor. Compliance with this requirement shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be allowed to meet this deficit with their renewal.

SECTION 4. Ministers' Contributions to NCAG

Licensed and ordained ministers associated with NCAG shall contribute not less than 80% of their tithes/dues from the gross income from all income sources to the support of NCAG each month.

Certified ministers associated with NCAG shall contribute not less than 50% of their tithes/dues from the gross income from all income sources to the support of NCAG each month.

Duly appointed credential holders serving as World or US Missionaries, including Chi Alpha and Chaplains, are subject to the tithing policies of those agencies, while contributing a minimum of \$25 per month to NCAG.

SECTION 5. Financial Assistance to Affiliated Churches

The Board of Trustees shall be authorized to extend financial assistance to NCAG-affiliated churches upon written application when such financial assistance is deemed necessary by the Board.

SECTION 6. Failure to Comply with Tithing Provisions

Failure to comply with the NCAG and General Council provisions for tithing, except as herein provided, shall be considered sufficient grounds for withholding renewal of credentials until satisfactory arrangements have been made.

SECTION 7. Plus One

Each church in NCAG is expected to send a monthly offering to the NCAG office in the amount of 1% of the church's general fund income to be allocated for ministry beyond the general

operations of the NCAG office and staff.

ARTICLE XII DIRECTORS AND OTHER DESIGNATIONS

Ministry leaders shall be selected by the Superintendent to serve as directors, commissioners, managers, or other specific designations commensurate with the position being filled.

ARTICLE XIII CHURCH MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. Church Ministries

Church Ministries shall be under the direction of the Executive Committee, which shall provide leadership as may be necessary.

SECTION 2. Departments

The Board of Trustees shall be authorized to establish any departments needed within the NCAG. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the NCAG policies.

SECTION 3. Duties and Responsibilities of Department Directors

- ï Supervise the work and ministry of their respective departments.
- ï Submit a quarterly report of activities to the Superintendent and a biennial report to the NCAG.
- ï Submit all funds received for their department to the Finance Director.
- ï Submit all expense vouchers and statements to the Finance Director for approval and payment.
- ï Submit to the Board of Trustees, through the budgeting process, any proposal that would financially obligate NCAG.

SECTION 4. Leadership of Departments

Departmental Leadership shall be selected by the Superintendent and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XIV COMMITTEES AND CONSULTANTS

SECTION 1. Committees

The administration of NCAG shall be supplemented by such committees as may be necessary and proper. All committees, standing and special, shall be subordinate to the Board of Trustees and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the ministry of NCAG. Committees shall function in accordance with NCAG policies.

SECTION 2. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

SECTION 3. Resolutions Committee

- i All resolutions for presentation to the NCAG shall be through a Resolutions Committee appointed biennially by the Superintendent and shall be presented to the Resolutions Committee chairman forty-five days before a business meeting. This shall not apply to resolutions coming from the Board of Trustees in session immediately preceding the business session.
- i The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and make them available at the registration desk. Attention shall be called to the resolutions during the opening service at the NCAG gathering for business.
- i The Resolutions Committee may present other resolutions it deems appropriate, which must be approved for presentation by a two-thirds vote of the NCAG gathered in session.
- i Each resolution presented shall be signed by its author(s) and the name of the sponsor(s) published in the minutes with the resolution.

SECTION 4. Loan Committee

- i For the funds operated within NCAG, there shall be a loan committee, or committees, of at least three members, each appointed by the Executive Committee and ratified by the Board of Trustees. The loan committee members shall serve for terms of three years. The first appointment shall be as follows: one member shall serve for one year; one member shall serve for two years; one member shall serve for three years. One of the members shall serve as chairman of the committee.
- i The Loan Committee shall approve all loans made by the NCAG and shall determine the rate of interest, terms of repayment, security requirements, and other matters of business relative to making all loans. All loans shall be made primarily to Assemblies of God churches and related entities of NCAG. The committee shall make quarterly reports relative to all loans to the Board of Trustees. The Superintendent may request information from the committee whenever he feels such information is pertinent to him. The committee shall review all applications received for loans and shall make all decisions relative to all loans.

ARTICLE XV LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

SECTION 1. Classification of Assemblies

Churches of the NCAG shall be classified as General Council-affiliated, NCAG-affiliated, parent-affiliated, or cooperating assemblies.

SECTION 2. General Council Affiliation

- ï Churches that desire to affiliate with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have at least twenty (20) voting members.
- ï Churches desiring affiliation must have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its Constitution and/or Bylaws.
- ï Churches desiring affiliation must recognize their obligation to the Fellowship as a whole, maintain proper doctrinal standards, and must have achieved spiritual and financial maturity. The church must accept all current and long-term financial obligations and release NCAG from all loan guarantees relating to the local church.
- ï General Council-Affiliated churches shall adopt a Constitution and Bylaws satisfactory to NCAG and to the General Council of the Assemblies of God and must agree to be governed by them.
- ï A General Council-affiliated church shall be self-governing, hold property in its own name, call its own minister, and administer its programs as necessary.
- ï Churches that meet the qualifications for affiliation shall be approved by the Board of Trustees, which shall provide affiliation procedures as outlined in General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES.

SECTION 3. NCAG Affiliation

- ï All churches that are not General Council-affiliated shall be NCAG-affiliated unless they are a parent-affiliated church or cooperative assembly.
- ï Churches having NCAG affiliation shall recognize an obligation to the NCAG, shall maintain proper doctrinal standards, and shall seek to achieve spiritual and financial maturity.
- ï NCAG-affiliated churches shall operate under the Constitution and/or Bylaws provided by NCAG.
- ï The fact that an assembly shall have attained a membership of 20 adults shall not in

itself qualify it for General Council-affiliated status. The Executive Officers shall make the judgment in the light of other factors related to its maturity.

- ï A NCAG-affiliated church's property shall be deeded to and held in the name of the NCAG.
- ï No property of an NCAG-affiliated church that is held in the name of NCAG shall be mortgaged or in any way encumbered without a two-thirds vote of the congregation and final approval of the NCAG Board of Trustees.
- ï NCAG-affiliated churches shall file a quarterly report of activities with the Secretary of NCAG, or as prescribed by the Board of Trustees.
- ï The local assembly shall elect the pastor of a NCAG-affiliated church according to the Constitution and/or Bylaws for NCAG-Affiliated Churches.
- ï While a church remains NCAG-affiliated and not General Council-affiliated, all NCAG-Affiliated Assemblies shall be evaluated annually, and local leadership shall be subject to annual confirmation or re-appointment by the Board of Trustees of NCAG as part of the district's responsibility for oversight, development, and accountability of district-affiliated churches.
- ï Upon recognition as a General Council-affiliated church, all governance and leadership authority shall transition to the local assembly in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

SECTION 4. Affiliation Reversal

- ï A General Council-affiliated church whose active voting membership decreases to less than twenty, or which, for other good and sufficient reasons, shall disqualify as a General Council church, shall revert to NCAG affiliation by action of the Board of Trustees.
- ï When the Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR) for a General Council-affiliated church reflects that its active voting membership has dropped below 20, the General Secretary of the Assemblies of God will notify the church and district that the local assembly has automatically been reverted to District Affiliated status.
- ï General Council-affiliated churches that revert to District-Affiliated status shall be expected to return to their former status through procedures outlined in General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES.

Section 5. Parent Affiliated Churches

- ï Provision shall be made for parent-affiliated assemblies, which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.
- ï All new PAC pastors must hold a General Council credential or be actively pursuing credentials under district supervision.

Section 6. Cooperating Assemblies

Churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution may enter into a cooperative status with NCAG and the General Council on a temporary basis. This status is limited to a four-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of NCAG in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery before officially affiliating with NCAG and the General Council.

SECTION 7. Church Planting

Church planting shall be under the supervision of the Superintendent, who shall appoint directors and consultants as needed. A new church plant or recognition of an existing church applying for NCAG or General Council affiliation shall require the approval of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 8. Intervention of the NCAG in a Local Assembly

- (a) While the right of a General Council-affiliated assembly to self-government is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that the assembly has a responsibility to the NCAG and General Council; and both councils have a responsibility to the assembly.
- (b) The NCAG may intervene in the affairs of a General Council-affiliated church only in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, and such intervention shall be limited to assistance, correction, or stabilization and shall not constitute routine governance.

Some of the circumstances that require intervention by the NCAG officials include:

- ï Division resulting in disruption.
- ï Assumption of dictatorial authority by a pastor or the board.
- ï Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.
- ï Deviation or departure from the Assemblies of God doctrines, principles, and practices.
- ï Attempts to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God fellowship.

- ï Any activity that brings reproach upon the Assemblies of God.

(c) Intervention Procedure

The NCAG Executive Officers have the right to meet with the board or congregation. NCAG intervention may also be initiated in the following ways:

- ï Request of the pastor
- ï Action of the board
- ï Petition of the congregation signed by 30% of all voting members.
- ï Exercising the right of organizational assistance as provided by the General Council Constitution and Bylaws

(d) NCAG Policy of Preservation for Affiliated Churches

If a situation arises that requires NCAG initiative and involvement, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, shall meet with the official board, pastor, and/or congregation to assist the church. The Executive Committee may bring the church under NCAG supervision with Board of Trustees approval if such an occasion arises in which they feel it necessary to preserve the assembly. The church shall have the right of appeal according to the General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI. Local Assemblies, Section 1, c.

ARTICLE XVI PROPERTY RIGHTS

SECTION 1. Property

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the NCAG or any of its subsidiaries (i.e., NCAG or any of its subsidiaries' names), and shall be under the management of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2. Use

The securing and maintaining of real, personal, and mixed property by the NCAG shall be used in accordance with the charitable purposes of the NCAG and to support the mission of the NCAG in the character and spirit of these Bylaws and the Core Beliefs. If the NCAG is in possession of unused property, it may rent or lease such property until disposal or return to normal NCAG use.

SECTION 3. Purchase, Sale, and Encumbrance of Property

- ï Real property, for the use or benefit of the entire NCAG, shall not be purchased or sold unless first authorized by a majority vote of the membership present at any regular or

special session of the council.

- i Such property may be leased, mortgaged, or rented as the need arises when authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. When required, the Assistant Superintendent/Secretary shall attach a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting in which authorization for conveyance, lease, contract, or mortgage shall have been authorized by vote of the membership of the NCAG, Board of Trustees, or the Executive Officers, as the case may be. Such a certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

SECTION 4. Other Property

- i Other property, real or chattel, acquired for the purpose of promoting and establishing NCAG-affiliated churches may be sold, transferred, leased, rented, conveyed, or mortgaged in the corporate name of NCAG or one of its subsidiaries when authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. All proceeds received from the property shall be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.
- i The properties of all churches not affiliated with the General Council shall be held in the corporate name of the NCAG or one of its subsidiaries, which shall have full power and authority to take and hold such property, whether gift or purchase. Upon affiliation with the General Council, the title of all property, real and personal (whether gift or purchase), and all indebtedness thereupon, immediately and automatically shall be transferred to and vested in the official name of the duly recognized General Council-affiliated church.

SECTION 5. Reverted Property

Church property reverting to the NCAG, because of a local assembly ceasing to function as a church body, may be sold, transferred, leased, mortgaged, rented, or conveyed in the corporate name of the NCAG while authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees. All proceeds received from such property shall be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 6. Cessation of NCAG

- i In the event this NCAG shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations shall revert to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.
- i In the event of cessation, its board of trustees shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one year after

the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the NCAG headquarters office is located, providing that in such case, proceeds of dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XVII LOAN FUND

NCAG is authorized to create and operate a Church Loan Fund and other such funds for the primary purpose of making loans to Assemblies of God churches and related entities for church construction, rebuilding, remodeling, and other such needs. The funds may be operated within NCAG, or through a separate non-profit corporation, the directors or trustees of which are appointed by the Executive Committee and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XVIII AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made in any regular or special session of the NCAG Council by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting.

ARTICLE XIX DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The following dispute resolution process is adopted as an expression of biblical reconciliation, stewardship of ministry resources, and the desire to avoid unnecessary public litigation, while preserving ecclesiastical discipline and appeal rights provided by the General Council.

In keeping with the NCAG's Core Beliefs, the following process shall be the exclusive method of resolving disputes. These include any claims, causes of action, demands, and other disagreements arising from or relating to these Bylaws; any of NCAG's real or personal property; association with NCAG as a director, trustee, officer, employee, minister, volunteer, member or intern; or any of the relationships between any directors, trustees, officers, employees, ministers, volunteers, interns, or members ("Disputes" or "Dispute" referring to one), except for reasonable and appropriate injunctive relief. All directors, trustees, officers, employees, ministers, volunteers, and interns waive all other methods of resolving Disputes not clearly permitted by this Paragraph. These Bylaws and all matters arising from or relating to any Dispute shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Wake County.

A. Step One: Matthew 18:15-16.

Within a reasonable time, considering Ephesians 4:26 ("do not let the sun go down on your anger"), the parties shall first make one or more reasonable, good faith, and meaningful attempts to resolve any Dispute by following the process described in the Bible in Matthew 18:15-16, to

wit, the parties shall attempt to resolve the Dispute between themselves, and if unsuccessful, shall then involve one or two witnesses, all the while maintaining a spirit of love and genuine concern for reconciliation according to a balanced approach guided by Biblical principles.

B. Step Two: Mediation.

If the parties are unable to resolve any Dispute after following the procedures described in step one above in (a), then the Dispute shall be submitted to Christian mediation consistent with the NCAG's Core Beliefs in Wake County, North Carolina within one (1) year of the substantial failure of the resolution set forth in step one above; otherwise the Dispute shall be deemed waived, and shall be forever barred.

C. (c) Step Three: Arbitration.

If the parties are unable to resolve any Dispute by mediation as described in step two above in (b), then the Dispute shall be submitted for binding Christian arbitration consistent with the NCAG's Core Beliefs in Wake County, North Carolina within one (1) year of the conclusion of the mediation in step two above; otherwise the Dispute shall be deemed waived, and shall be forever barred. The prevailing party in arbitration shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees as well as all costs, both respecting mediation and arbitration in steps two and three, unless the prevailing party initiated dispute resolution but failed to employ reasonable, good faith, and meaningful efforts to resolve the Dispute with the spirit described in (a), or failed to follow any of the other requirements of this Article. Final judgment from arbitration may be entered and enforced in a court with jurisdiction.

ARTICLE XX INDEMNIFICATION

Every member of the Board of Trustees, officers, or employee of NCAG may be indemnified by NCAG against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such members of the Board of Trustees, officer, or employee in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding to which she/he may become involved by reason of her/his being or having been a member of the Board of Trustees, officer, or employee of the NCAG, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to have engaged in: (a) willful or intentional misconduct or in conscious disregard for the best interests of the NCAG; (b) a transaction in which he or she derived improper personal benefit; or (c) a violation of the criminal law unless he or she had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was lawful or no reason to believe it was unlawful. The foregoing right of indemnification will be in addition and not exclusive of all other rights which such member of the Board of Trustees, officer, or employee might be entitled.

Once formally adopted, these Bylaws shall prevail over all prior bylaws.