

**RULES OF ORDER  
FOR  
HOME MISSIONS CHURCHES**

The following Rules of Order are approved by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District for Home Missions churches [District Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7, subsection g; Article IX, Section 1, subsection a].

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this church shall be \_\_\_\_\_.

**ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION**

This church shall be affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, as a Home Missions church. It shall be under the general supervision of the District Officiary, and under the immediate supervision of the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director or the Director's designee, who shall then have the full authority to act on behalf of the Director according to the provisions of the District Constitution and these Rules of Order.

**ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH**

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining general unity adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS\***

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

**1. The Scriptures Inspired**

The Scriptures, both the Old and the New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith, and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21).

**2. The One True God**

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

1 THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

2  
3 **a. Terms Defined**

4 The terms *trinity* and *persons* as related to the godhead, while not found in the  
5 Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to  
6 others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the  
7 Being of God as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We  
8 therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a  
9 Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural  
10 (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

11  
12 **b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead**

13 Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in  
14 specific terms of relationship as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this  
15 distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and  
16 incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24;  
17 Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

18  
19 **c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

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

28  
29 **d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead**

30 The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never **identical** as to **person**; nor  
31 **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the godhead; nor **opposed** as  
32 to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to  
33 relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to  
34 fellowship. The Father is not **from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father as  
35 to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to  
36 nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the  
37 godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John  
38 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).

39  
40 **e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ**

41 The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ* is a proper name. It is never applied in the  
42 New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Ghost. It, therefore, belongs  
43 exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

44  
45 **f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us**

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

1 **g. The Title, Son of God**

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

8 **h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

9 Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ  
10 derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because  
11 of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the  
12 Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is  
13 a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the  
14 Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in  
15 the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews  
16 12:2).  
17

18 **i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord.**

19 The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat  
20 down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and  
21 powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both  
22 Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might  
23 bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the  
24 Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God  
25 may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1  
26 Corinthians 15:24-28).  
27

28 **j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son**

29 Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not  
30 only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is  
31 an **unspeakable** joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes  
32 of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names  
33 and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see  
34 paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father  
35 (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation  
36 7:9,10; 4:8-11).  
37

38 **3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

39  
40 The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- 41 a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- 42 b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- 43 c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- 44 d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians  
45 5:21).
- 46 e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1  
47 Corinthians 15:4).
- 48 f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians.  
49 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

50  
51 **4. The Fall of Man**

52  
53 Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our  
54 image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and

1 thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is  
2 separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

3  
4 **5. The Salvation of Man**

5  
6 Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the  
7 Son of God.

8  
9 **a. Conditions of Salvation.** Salvation is received through repentance  
10 toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By washing of  
11 regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through  
12 faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke  
13 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

14  
15 **b. The Evidences of Salvation.** The inward evidence of salvation is the  
16 direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is  
17 a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

18  
19 **6. The Ordinances of the Church**

20  
21 **a. Baptism in Water.** The ordinance of baptism by immersion is  
22 commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior  
23 and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died  
24 with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of  
25 life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

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

32  
33 **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

34  
35 All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the  
36 promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the  
37 command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in  
38 the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and  
39 service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry  
40 (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct  
41 from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-  
42 46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such  
43 experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a  
44 deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified  
45 consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active  
46 love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

47  
48 **8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

49  
50 The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical  
51 sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance  
52 (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as  
53 the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

**9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15,16).

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

**10. The Church and Its Mission**

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

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

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfect in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

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

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

**11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three fold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), and (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16).

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**12. Divine Healing**

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

**13. The Blessed Hope**

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

**14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

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

**15. The Final Judgment**

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

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

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

\*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term "man" is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

**ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Requirements**

Minimum requirements for membership shall be as follows, or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the Michigan Church Planting Director and ratification by the District Officiary:

- a. Born Again.** Members in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

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- 1           **b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy  
2 Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts  
3 2:2-4).  
4
- 5           **c. Baptized in Water.** Members shall have followed the scriptural  
6 command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the  
7 Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).  
8
- 9           **d. God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy  
10 Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters  
11 of faith and conduct.  
12
- 13           **e. Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from such worldly  
14 participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit.  
15 They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with  
16 pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They  
17 shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or  
18 inappropriate appearance. They shall not hold any fascination or  
19 association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things.  
20 They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from  
21 the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity,  
22 material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as  
23 pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony  
24 of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's  
25 body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-  
26 8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians  
27 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12;  
28 James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).  
29
- 30           **f. Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic  
31 beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).  
32
- 33           **g. Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and  
34 expectancy of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1  
35 Thessalonians. 4:16,17).  
36
- 37           **h. Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of  
38 Faith as set forth in the Rules of Order of this church.  
39
- 40           **i. Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in  
41 the work of this church, to be governed by its Rules of Order, and to  
42 contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.  
43
- 44           **j. Age.** Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.  
45
- 46           **k. Application for Membership.** Applicants shall have regularly  
47 attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at  
48 least three consecutive months prior to the date of application of  
49 membership. Applicants shall use a form approved by the District  
50 Officiary or provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of  
51 God.

1 **Section 2. Reception of Members**  
2

3 After being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of  
4 membership, applicants who have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor  
5 and Official Board may publicly be received at any service and their names  
6 added to the membership roll.  
7

8 **Section 3. Inactive Members**  
9

10 Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their  
11 membership to another church and those who for other reasons (except  
12 physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have  
13 absented themselves from the regular services of the church for a period of  
14 ninety (90) days or more shall be classified as inactive members by the Official  
15 Board. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be  
16 qualified to participate in the business of the church.  
17

18 Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their  
19 resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they  
20 have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their  
21 names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the  
22 Official Board without public reception into membership again.  
23

24 **Section 4. Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members**  
25

26 It shall be the duty of the Pastor and Official Board to revise the membership  
27 roll of the church at least once a year, and prior to all business meetings. The  
28 names of those whose lives no longer conform to the standards of membership,  
29 or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans  
30 16:17,18) may be removed from the membership roll by the action of the  
31 Official Board.  
32

33 Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood  
34 that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have  
35 been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of  
36 the church. If individuals removed from membership shall protest the action  
37 of the Official Board, they shall be entitled to a hearing before the District  
38 Officiary.  
39

40 **Section 5. Transfer of Membership**  
41

42 **a. Transfer to another church.** A letter of transfer of membership  
43 signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual  
44 desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the  
45 Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member  
46 is in good standing.  
47

48 **b. Transfer from another church.** When an individual desires to  
49 transfer membership from an Assemblies of God church to this church, a  
50 letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring  
51 church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing.  
52 Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the  
53 Official Board of this church.

**Section 6. Arbitration**

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any member of the church and the church itself (including any officer or director thereof) while the individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a final award. If, during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

1 The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties  
2 shall submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan,  
3 both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator's  
4 award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set  
5 forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies  
6 of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and shall in no way affect  
7 the authority of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the  
8 Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to investigate reports of misconduct,  
9 conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein  
10 shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

11  
12 **ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION**

13  
14 **Section 1. Official Board and Church Officers**

15  
16 There shall be an annually appointed Official Board of the church as provided in  
17 these Rules of Order. The Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director shall  
18 appoint the Official Board, subject to the approval of the Church Planting and  
19 Development Board. There shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and  
20 Treasurer of the church, and other offices as determined by the Official Board.

21  
22 **Section 2. Duties**

23  
24 **a. Official Board.** The Official Board shall:

- 25  
26 1) Serve as trustees of the Corporation. Their fiduciary  
27 responsibilities shall include the duties of due care and  
28 diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending  
29 designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-  
30 mingling personal and corporate funds.  
31  
32 2) Appoint a Pastor in conjunction with the District  
33 Superintendent. In making Pastoral appointments, the Official  
34 Board shall endeavor to determine how the proposed  
35 appointment will be received by the members of the church.  
36  
37 3) Appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary-Treasurer. Such  
38 appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.  
39  
40 4) May appoint a local Advisory Committee as the church  
41 progresses and qualified personnel become available. Such  
42 appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.  
43  
44 5) Retain the right to remove any officer and to make new  
45 appointments as may seem advisable.

46  
47 **b. Pastor.** The Pastor shall:

- 48  
49 1) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.  
50  
51 2) Have general oversight of the church and direct all its activities  
52 under the supervision of the Official Board. All other officers

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- 1 or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the  
2 Pastor's supervision.  
3
- 4 3) Serve as the chairperson of the local Advisory Committee  
5 where one exists. The Pastor, or Pastor's designee, shall  
6 record the minutes of all Annual and Special Business  
7 Meetings and the Advisory Committee Meetings, and shall  
8 forward them to the Secretary of the Official Board.  
9
- 10 4) In consultation with the Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary-  
11 Treasurer, and the Advisory Committee where one exists,  
12 submit an annual budget to the Official Board for review and  
13 approval prior to the beginning of the church's fiscal year.  
14
- 15 5) Serve as the Vice-President of the Corporation. The Vice-  
16 President, with the President, shall sign all legal documents.  
17
- 18 **c. President.** The President, or President's designee, shall:  
19
- 20 1) Serve as the chairperson of all Annual and Special Business  
21 Meetings.  
22
- 23 2) Be a signatory on all bank accounts.  
24
- 25 3) With the Vice-President, sign all legal documents.  
26
- 27 **d. Secretary.** The Secretary shall:  
28
- 29 1) Keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Advisory  
30 Committee where one exists, and of Annual and Special  
31 Business Meetings of the church.  
32
- 33 2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform  
34 any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the  
35 duties of the office.  
36
- 37 3) Be the custodian of all legal documents.  
38
- 39 4) Sign all legal documents if the Vice-Presidency (Pastorate) is  
40 vacant.  
41
- 42 **e. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall:  
43
- 44 1) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit same in  
45 the name of the church in a financial institution approved by  
46 the Official Board.  
47
- 48 2) Keep an accurate record of the disbursements and receipts of  
49 all departments and conduct the work of the office according to  
50 accepted methods of business.  
51
- 52 3) Give a monthly report, and other reports as requested, to the  
53 Official Board.

**Rules of Order  
Home Missions**

1           4) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once  
2           a year, and reviewed or audited as directed by the Pastor and  
3           Official Board, or the Michigan Missions and Church Planting  
4           Director.

5  
6           **f. Advisory Committee.** Where one exists, the Advisory Committee  
7           shall:

8  
9           1) Serve under the direction of the Pastor and Official Board.  
10           Any action taken by the Advisory Committee or by the church  
11           shall be subject to review and approval by the Official Board.

12  
13           2) Meet at least six (6) times per year.

14  
15           3) Qualifications of Advisory Committee members:

16  
17           Minimum requirements for Advisory Committee members  
18           shall be as follows, or as provided by the Official Board with  
19           the approval of the Michigan Church Planting Director and  
20           ratification by the District Officiary:

21  
22           a) Meet the minimum requirements for membership.

23  
24           b) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

25  
26           c) Be an active member of the church where membership  
27           has been established.

28  
29           d) Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership  
30           in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy  
31           3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

32  
33           While we recommend that each Assembly of God church  
34           hold to our historical position that restricts divorced and  
35           remarried believers from holding the office of elder or  
36           deacon, except when the divorce occurred prior to  
37           conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), each local church shall  
38           have the prerogative to set their own standards in the light  
39           of its understanding of Scripture.

40  
41           **Section 3. District Advice and Counsel**

42  
43           The Pastor or Official Board may seek the advice and counsel of the District  
44           Officiary at any time.

45  
46           **ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

47  
48           **Section 1. Parliamentary Order**

49  
50           In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its  
51           deliberations, all business meetings shall be governed by accepted rules of  
52           parliamentary procedure as set forth in *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*,

1 in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance  
2 of the Holy Spirit.

3  
4 **Section 2. Annual Business Meeting**

5  
6 There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time reports  
7 shall be given and pertinent matters discussed as may be placed on the agenda  
8 by the Pastor, along with the Official Board, and the Michigan Missions and  
9 Church Planting Director. The time and date of this meeting shall be set by the  
10 Pastor and Official Board and announcement or notification shall be made at  
11 least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

12  
13 The President, or the President's designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the  
14 annual business meeting.

15  
16 The order of business shall include:

- 17  
18 a. Devotional.  
19 b. Presentation of previous minutes by Secretary.  
20 c. Report of Treasurer.  
21 d. Report of committees.  
22 e. Unfinished business.  
23 f. New business.

24  
25 **Section 3. Special Business Meetings**

26  
27 Special business meetings may be called by the Official Board or the Michigan  
28 Missions and Church Planting Director. Announcement or notification,  
29 including the purpose of the special meeting, shall be made at least two (2)  
30 Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or seven (7) days notice may be given  
31 to all active members by first-class mail.

32  
33 The President, or President's designee, shall serve as the chairperson of all  
34 Special Business Meetings.

35  
36 **Section 4. Quorum and Voting Constituency**

37  
38 Active members of the church responding to a call for a regular or special  
39 business meeting who are in good standing shall constitute a quorum and shall  
40 be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.

41  
42 **ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY**

43  
44 **Section 1. Incorporation**

45  
46 The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. Its  
47 property shall be held in its corporate name subject to the provisions in Article  
48 VIII, Section 4 of these Rules of Order. If, on the acquisition of property or  
49 the construction of a building, the church shall require the signatures and credit  
50 of the Michigan District, the church's property shall be held in the name of the  
51 Assemblies of God, Michigan District, until such time as the debt shall be  
52 retired.

1 **Section 2. Right to Own**  
2

3 No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of  
4 whatever kind, of the church in excess of a fair market value of \$10,000, shall be  
5 taken, or sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated, without the same shall  
6 having been authorized by the Official Board. In making such decisions, the  
7 Official Board shall endeavor to determine how the proposed action will be  
8 received by the members of the church.  
9

10 **Section 3. Property Rights**  
11

12 Notwithstanding language to the contrary in these Rules of Order, if the  
13 Presbyter Board determines, in its sole and unrestricted discretion, that a  
14 church has ceased to be a viable church, or no longer adheres to Assemblies of  
15 God doctrine and practices, then the Presbyter Board shall have the option to  
16 take possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and  
17 intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church on behalf of the  
18 Assemblies of God, Michigan District, an ecclesiastical corporation organized  
19 under the law of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Farmington Hills.  
20 It is the parent body for Assemblies of God churches in Michigan and is an  
21 integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national  
22 headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for  
23 religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the  
24 Internal Revenue Code. The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall  
25 forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at the discretion  
26 of the Presbyter Board. All written pre-affiliation agreements between the  
27 District and other entities will be honored. Proceeds from the sale or rental of  
28 any property under this provision shall be used by the Michigan Missions and  
29 Church Planting Ministries Department, or to help purchase land and/or  
30 buildings for District Supervised or District Advanced churches at the  
31 discretion of the Presbyter Board.  
32

33 **ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS**  
34

35 All departments and department leaders shall be under the direct supervision of  
36 the Pastor who may personally direct their activities. The Pastor may, in  
37 consultation with the Official Board or Advisory Committee, where one exists,  
38 appoint competent leaders as deemed advisable.  
39

40 **ARTICLE IX. REPRESENTATION**  
41

42 This Home Missions church shall be represented at each District and Sectional  
43 Council by its Pastor.  
44

45 **ARTICLE X. DEVELOPMENT**  
46

47 The Pastor will endeavor to develop the church to a place of maturity where it  
48 may be advanced in its classification. Advancement shall be upon the  
49 recommendation of the Church Planting and Development Board in  
50 accordance with provisions of the District Bylaws. When said advancement is  
51 approved by the District Presbyter Board, the church shall be governed by the  
52 appropriate Rules of Order or its own Bylaws.

