

NEW LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD BYLAWS

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**BYLAWS OF
NEW LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
COLLINSVILLE, OKLAHOMA**

Adopted this 6th day of April 2014 by the local assembly

Preamble

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be New Life Assembly of God.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council affiliated assembly shall be:

1. To Govern

This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Oklahoma District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a Senior Pastor, the selection of the church leadership, and the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

2. To Acquire and Dispose

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, this assembly shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use,

sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony, and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

4. To Cooperate

This assembly shall cooperate with the District Council and the General Council to extend the work and kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program as agreed upon. It shall participate in District Council and General Council sessions through its chosen delegates and share in the support of the ministries of these bodies.

5. To Recognize

This assembly shall recognize that the District Council and the General Council have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed necessary. See Article IX of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith, associated in the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. Officers of the District Council and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the Senior Pastor and members of this assembly.

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the Senior Pastor, or majority of the Board of Elders.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for leadership, and requirements for a Senior Pastor to those standards set by the

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

The Adorable Godhead a.

Terms Defined

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

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

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

1: 3,4).

c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

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

e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

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

f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

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

g. The Title, Son of God

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

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

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

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

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

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

a. Conditions to Salvation

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

b. The Evidences of Salvation

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water

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

b. Holy Communion

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the

Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31).

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4).

The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 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 Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15,16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13; 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 worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God:

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

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

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

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in:

- a. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20).
- b. Worship of God (John 4:23,24).
- c. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4: 11, 16).
- d. Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms 112:9; Galatians

2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6).

This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37 :21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28: 19) shall be administered to all

who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

Section 2. Holy Communion

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT AND MINISTRY

A. In General

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the active membership; however, routine business of the assembly shall be the responsibility of the church board, in accordance with duties defined in these bylaws, to the extent that such authority is not limited by district supervision as provided for under the bylaws of the District Council.

B. OFFICERS

There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously, by the same individual. There shall be a board, consisting of the pastor and other members of the assembly. The Senior Pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairman of the Board of Elders.

C. QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS

(1) Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be in good standing with both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the District Council and shall have credentials with the Assemblies of God.

(2) Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Timothy 3. Elders shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, fully support the Senior Pastor and his vision, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. (Hereinafter defined as "Elders".)

(3) Secretary

The Secretary shall, for one year, be an active member of this Assembly. During said term, he or she may simultaneously serve as a member of the Board of Elders. When the Secretary is

not also serving as an Elder, he or she has no voting privileges during Elder meetings, but may provide advice when needed. The Secretary's appointment shall be for two years when they are not serving as a board member. At the end of their term, the church board shall discuss and vote upon to extend or not to extend their term.

(4) *Treasurer*

The Treasurer shall, for one year, be an active member of this Assembly. During said term, he or she may simultaneously serve as a member of the Board of Elders. When the Treasurer is not also serving as an Elder, he or she has no voting privileges during Elder meetings. However, his or her financial recommendations must be entered into the minutes of all meetings. The Treasurer's appointment shall be for two years when they are not serving as a board member. At the end of their term, the church board shall discuss and vote upon to extend or not to extend their term.

D. Duties of Officers

(1) *Senior Pastor*

(a) Shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities as Chairman of the Board of Elders.

(b) Shall be recognized as a member of the church Advisory Team, president of the assembly, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly.

(c) Shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special services, conferences or promotions. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

(d) Shall, as the spiritual overseer of the assembly lead the nominating process for the selection of Board of Elder nominees.

(e) Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

(2) *Board of Elders*

(a) The Board of Elders shall have the general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The Board of Elders shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.

(b) The Board of Elders shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.

(c) For so long as the church is temporarily without a Senior Pastor, the remaining members of the Board of Elders shall be empowered to select a temporary Chairman.

(3) Secretary

(a) Shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Elders and of special business meetings of the assembly.

(b) Shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of their duties.

(c) Shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

(d) Shall file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.

(4) Treasurer

(a) Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the Board of Elders.

(b) Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the Board of Elders, and shall present an annual report to the assembly.

(c) Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.

(d) Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.

(e) Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.

(5) Fiduciary Duties

The law imposes several fiduciary duties on officers including the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not commingling personal and corporate funds.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Active membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following

qualifications:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- b. Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14, Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2, 15; 1 John 1:6,7).
- d. An indication of a willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which he/she is to become a member.
- e. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- f. Having reached at least eighteen years of age.
- g. Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- h. Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall submit an application for membership after completing a Membership Class. The Board of Elders shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority consent. Those approved for membership by the Board of Elders shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before a business meeting.

Section 3. Senior Pastor, Pastoral Staff and Spouses

By virtue of office the Senior Pastor and/or pastoral staff shall be considered active members of the church during their tenure. The spouse shall become an active member simultaneously with the Senior Pastor and/or pastoral staff.

Section 4. Transfer Members

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church who satisfies the standards of membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VII, other than the attendance and

support requirements, may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the Pastor of the other Assembly upon the approval of a majority of the Elder Board.

Section 5. Inactive Membership

Active members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of 3 consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of 3 consecutive months, may be declared inactive members by a majority consent of the Board of Elders, and thereupon shall lose their membership privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by action of the assembly through its Board of Elders.

Section 6. Discipline

A. Grounds

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Elders.

The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God.

B. Procedure

The assembly will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps:

(1) The Senior Pastor or a designated member of the Board of Elders discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately;

(2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders or with a designated committee of the Board of Elders in an effort to resolve the matter privately;

(3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the Board of Elders may submit the matter to the membership of the church. If resolution is still not reached, the matter will then be presented to the Oklahoma District of the Assemblies of God Executive Presbytery. Their decision will be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the church (Matthew

18:17). However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

ARTICLE VIII. SELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Selections

A. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be elected by the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders and shall be ratified by the membership of the church. He shall minister for the period of time specified in the contract of employment. The contract of employment shall be in writing and shall be signed by the prospective Senior Pastor and by an officer of the Board of Elders. The qualifications of the Senior Pastor shall be set by the Board of Elders, but in no case be less than those of admission to membership in the congregation.

B. Secretary

The Senior Pastor shall select a secretary from among the active members. The Board of Elders shall ratify his selection. The term of office shall be determined by the Board of Elders, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

C. Treasurer

The Senior Pastor shall select a treasurer from among the active members. His selection shall be ratified by the Board of Elders. The term of office shall be determined by the Board of Elders, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

D. Board of Elders

Elders shall only be nominated by the Board of Elders. They shall be selected by a unanimous consent of the Board of Elders during any regular meeting, then be ratified by the church membership during the Annual Business Meeting. Elders shall be selected for a single four-year term and shall hold office until the Board of Elders meeting at which their successors are selected or removed by unanimous consent of the remaining Board of Elders. A one-year vacancy from the Board must occur before members are re-eligible for nomination. The terms of the Elders shall be staggered appropriately when an early vacancy occurs or amendments to the term are made. The Board of Elders will consist of an odd number of persons depending on church membership size, for example, 3 Elders will represent a church membership of up to 125 members, 5 Elders will represent a church membership of 126-225 members and 7 Elders will represent a church membership of 226 or more members.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

A. Senior Pastor

When a vacancy in the office of the Senior Pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the Board of Elders until a Senior Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, section 1A. When a Senior Pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the District or General Council, the Senior Pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated. In the event a special business meeting is called as provided in Article IX, Section 3, for the purpose of considering the status of the pastor, a 75% majority vote of all voting members present shall be required to remove a pastor from office before his term expires.

B. Secretary and Treasurer

When a vacancy in the office of the Secretary and/or Treasurer shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the Board of Elders until the Senior Pastor chooses a replacement as prescribed in Article VI, Section 1 C.

C. Board of Elders

The office of Elder shall be vacant upon resignation, or upon the termination by the unanimous consent of the remaining Board of Elders.

D. In General

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the senior pastor) may be terminated by a unanimous consent of the Board of Elders.

E. Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of Senior Pastor) may be filled by appointment of the Board of Elders for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under direction of the Senior Pastor or the Board of Elders if there is no Senior Pastor.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church membership, at which time the ratification of selected officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the church shall be published or announced at least one time in each of three different regular services prior to the date of the proposed meeting. Notice also may be given by email or other electronic communication format to subscribers of the church's regular form of electronic communication to members or by posting on the church website and other web platforms in each case at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The pastor shall be the chairman of all meetings of the members; in his absence, the vice-chair or any other board member appointed by the church board, in that order, shall serve as chairman. Any person acting as chairman shall obtain written authorization from the pastor to serve as chairman.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may only be called by the Senior Pastor, or by a majority of the Board of Elders.

Matters pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board.

Matters pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the Board of Elders, who may arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly.

Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall follow the same guidelines outlined in Article IX, Section 2.

No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 4. Ratification Vote Constituency

A. Qualification of Voters

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active members who are present.

B. Members Under Process of Discipline

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article VII, Section 9).

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of all members present at any duly called business meeting.

ARTICLE X. FINANCE

Section 1. In General

The voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of the members and friends of the organization shall provide all funds for the maintenance of the assembly. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Board of Elders and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3: 10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16: 1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Section 2. Handling of Offerings

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. Those counting the offering shall sign an offering receipts form. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

Section 3. Staff Compensation

All paid staff member's salary and benefit packages shall be approved by the Board of Elders before compensation begins.

Section 4. Loans, Bank Accounts and Monthly Expenses

A. Loans

- a. Loans shall not be applied for nor taken out in the name of New Life Assembly of God unless such loan application and/or loan is first approved by the Board of Elders.
- b. Any loan or line of credit over the amount of \$25,000 shall first be approved by the Board of Elders and ratified by the membership.

B. Checking Accounts, Savings Accounts and Credit Card Accounts

- a. All financial accounts in the name of New Life Assembly of God shall be approved by the Board of Elders before an application is made or before the account is opened.
- b. The Senior Pastor and the Treasurer shall have signing authority on all financial accounts. Other individuals may have signing authority as approved by the Board of Elders.

C. Monthly Expenses

The Board of Elders shall approve a maximum dollar amount for reoccurring monthly expenses within the church. The approved amount shall be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Board of Elders. This amount shall be sufficient to allow staff members to purchase items as needed for the regular operation of the church and facility.

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name.

Section 2. Purchases and Sales of Property

All purchases exceeding \$1,000 in cost shall be authorized by the Board of Elders. All purchases exceeding \$25,000 shall be authorized by the Board of Elders and ratified by the membership.

Section 3. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, or any other individual. The Board of Elders shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XII. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this church and the church itself, or (2) between any member of this church and any Senior Pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other worker of this church, 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, Spirit-filled believers who are members of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting 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 which 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 the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair his 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 30 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 request of a party and for good cause or 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. All the arbitrators shall conduct the hearing, but a majority of them may determine any question and 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 matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least 5 days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the 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 dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors. The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state that may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. The provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act shall govern any matter not provided for herein. If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then the liability insurer of the church conditions use of this arbitration procedure on acceptance of the procedure, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended by unanimous consent of the Board of Elders and ratified by the membership of the church at any regular or special business meeting. Article IV of these bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the District Council and subject to the ratification of the Oklahoma District Executive Presbytery.