

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

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 Ghost, 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 Ghost

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 Ghost which constitutes Him **the Holy Ghost** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Ghost. 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).

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

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 of Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, 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 and 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 Ghost 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 Ghost 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).

1 **8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
2

3 The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical
4 sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance
5 (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as
6 the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.
7

8 **9. Sanctification**
9

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

16 Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with
17 Christ in His death and resurrection, by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of
18 that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the
19 Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13;
20 1 Peter 1:5).
21

22 **10. The Church and Its Mission**
23

24 The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit,
25 with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each
26 believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and
27 church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22;
28 Hebrews 12:23).
29

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

- 34 a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew
35 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- 36 b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians
37 12:13).
- 38 c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being
39 perfect in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians
40 12:28; 14:12).
- 41 d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the
42 world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).
43

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

- 47 a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with
48 accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31;
49 Hebrews 2:3,4).
- 50 b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1
51 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- 52 c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in
53 expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times
54 for the edifying of the body of Christ, and to care for the poor and

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 Officer:

- 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).
- b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).
- c. **Baptized in Water.** Members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
- d. **God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- e. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from such worldly participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit. They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance. They shall not hold any fascination or association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things. They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).
- f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- a. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians. 4:16,17).
- b. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Rules of Order of this church.
- i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of this church, to be governed by its Rules of Order, and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.

1
2 **j. Age.** Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
3

4 **k. Application for Membership.** Applicants shall have regularly
5 attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at
6 least three consecutive months prior to the date of application of
7 membership. Applicants shall use a form approved by the District
8 Officiary or provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of
9 God.
10

11 **Section 2. Reception of Members**

12
13 After being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of
14 membership, applicants who have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor
15 and Official Board may publicly be received at any service and their names
16 added to the membership roll.
17

18 **Section 3. Inactive Members**

19
20 Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their
21 membership to another church and those who for other reasons (except
22 physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have
23 absented themselves from the regular services of the church for a period of
24 ninety (90) days or more shall be classified as inactive members by the Official
25 Board. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be
26 qualified to participate in the business of the church.
27

28 Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their
29 resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they
30 have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their
31 names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the
32 Official Board without public reception into membership again.
33

34 **Section 4. Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members**

35
36 It shall be the duty of the Pastor and Official Board to revise the membership
37 roll of the church at least once a year, and prior to all business meetings. The
38 names of those whose lives no longer conform to the standards of membership,
39 or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans
40 16:17,18) may be removed from the membership roll by the action of the
41 Official Board.
42

43 Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood
44 that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have
45 been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of
46 the church. If individuals removed from membership shall protest the action
47 of the Official Board, they shall be entitled to a hearing before the District
48 Officiary.
49

50 **Section 5. Transfer of Membership**

51
52 **a. Transfer to another church.** A letter of transfer of membership
53 signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual

1 desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the
2 Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member
3 is in good standing.
4

5 **b. Transfer from another church.** When an individual desires to
6 transfer membership from an Assemblies of God church to this church, a
7 letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring
8 church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing.
9 Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the
10 Official Board of this church.
11

12 **Section 6. Arbitration**

13
14 Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other
15 believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which
16 may arise between any member of the church and the church itself (including
17 any officer or director thereof) while the individual is a member, shall be
18 resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute
19 have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by
20 filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable
21 time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have
22 failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an
23 arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be
24 born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit
25 (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an
26 Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall
27 disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the
28 outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional,
29 family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might
30 reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to
31 the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a
32 candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves
33 without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose
34 relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party,
35 regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such
36 disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The
37 arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.
38

39 The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause
40 notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less
41 than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such
42 notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary,
43 and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may
44 postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the
45 controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party
46 duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence
47 material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the
48 hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them
49 may determine any question or render a final award. If, during the course of the
50 hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the
51 same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their
52 absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the
53 matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days
54 previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose

1 evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The
2 arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem
3 necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute.
4 Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the
5 arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any
6 party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person's heirs and
7 successors.

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

19
20 **ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION**

21
22 **Section 1. Official Board and Church Officers**

23
24 There shall be an annually appointed Official Board of the church as provided in
25 these Rules of Order. The Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director shall
26 appoint the Official Board, subject to the approval of the Church Planting and
27 Development Board. There shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and
28 Treasurer of the church, and other offices as determined by the Official Board.

29
30 **Section 2. Duties**

31 **a. Official Board.** The Official Board shall:

- 32
33
34 1) Serve as trustees of the Corporation. Their fiduciary
35 responsibilities shall include the duties of due care and
36 diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending
37 designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not com-
38 mingling personal and corporate funds.
39
40 2) Appoint a Pastor in conjunction with the District
41 Superintendent. In making Pastoral appointments, the Official
42 Board shall endeavor to determine how the proposed
43 appointment will be received by the members of the church.
44 3) Appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary-Treasurer. Such
45 appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.
46 4) May appoint a local Advisory Committee as the church
47 progresses and qualified personnel become available. Such
48 appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.
49
50 5) Retain the right to remove any officer and to make new
51 appointments as may seem advisable.

52
53 **b. Pastor.** The Pastor shall:
54

**Rules of Order
Home Missions**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

- 1) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.
- 2) Have general oversight of the church and direct all its activities under the supervision of the Official Board. All other officers or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the Pastor's supervision.
- 3) Serve as the chairperson of the local Advisory Committee where one exists. The Pastor, or Pastor's designee, shall record the minutes of all Annual and Special Business Meetings and the Advisory Committee Meetings, and shall forward them to the Secretary of the Official Board.
- 4) In consultation with the Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, and the Advisory Committee where one exists, submit an annual budget to the Official Board for review and approval prior to the beginning of the church's fiscal year.
- 5) Serve as the Vice-President of the Corporation. The Vice-President, with the President, shall sign all legal documents.

c. President. The President, or President's designee, shall:

- 1) Serve as the chairperson of all Annual and Special Business Meetings.
- 2) Be a signatory on all bank accounts.
- 3) With the Vice-President, sign all legal documents.

d. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- 1) Keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Advisory Committee where one exists, and of Annual and Special Business Meetings of the church.
- 2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.
- 3) Be the custodian of all legal documents.

**Rules of Order
Home Missions**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53

4) Sign all legal documents if the Vice-Presidency (Pastorate) is vacant.

e. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- 1) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit same in the name of the church in a financial institution approved by the Official Board.
- 2) Keep an accurate record of the disbursements and receipts of all departments and conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.
- 3) Give a monthly report, and other reports as requested, to the Official Board.
- 4) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once a year, and reviewed or audited as directed by the Pastor and Official Board, or the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director.

f. Advisory Committee. Where one exists, the Advisory Committee shall:

- 1) Serve under the direction of the Pastor and Official Board. Any action taken by the Advisory Committee or by the church shall be subject to review and approval by the Official Board.
- 2) Meet at least six (6) times per year.
- 3) Qualifications of Advisory Committee members:

Minimum requirements for Advisory Committee members 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) Meet the minimum requirements for membership.
 - b) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 - c) Be an active member of the church where membership has been established.
 - d) Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

While we recommend that each Assembly of God church hold to our historical position that restricts divorced and remarried believers from holding the office of elder or deacon, except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), each local church shall

1 have the prerogative to set their own standards in the light
2 of its understanding of Scripture.

3
4 **Section 3. District Advice and Counsel**

5
6 The Pastor or Official Board may seek the advice and counsel of the District
7 Officiary at any time.

8
9 **ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

10
11 **Section 1. Parliamentary Order**

12
13 In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its
14 deliberations, all business meetings shall be governed by accepted rules of
15 parliamentary procedure as set forth in *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*,
16 in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance
17 of the Holy Spirit.

18
19 **Section 2. Annual Business Meeting**

20
21 There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time reports
22 shall be given and pertinent matters discussed as may be placed on the agenda
23 by the Pastor, along with the Official Board, and the Michigan Missions and
24 Church Planting Director. The time and date of this meeting shall be set by the
25 Pastor and Official Board and announcement or notification shall be made at
26 least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

27
28 The President, or the President's designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the
29 annual business meeting.

30
31 The order of business shall include:

- 32
33 a. Devotional.
34 b. Presentation of previous minutes by Secretary.
35 c. Report of Treasurer.
36 d. Report of committees.
37 e. Unfinished business.
38 f. New business.

39
40 **Section 3. Special Business Meetings**

41
42 Special business meetings may be called by the Official Board or the Michigan
43 Missions and Church Planting Director. Announcement or notification,
44 including the purpose of the special meeting, shall be made at least two (2)
45 Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or seven (7) days notice may be given
46 to all active members by first-class mail.

47
48 The President, or President's designee, shall serve as the chairperson of all
49 Special Business Meetings.

50

1 **Section 4. Quorum and Voting Constituency**
2

3 Active members of the church responding to a call for a regular or special
4 business meeting who are in good standing shall constitute a quorum and shall
5 be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.
6

7 **ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY**
8

9 **Section 1. Incorporation**
10

11 The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. Its
12 property shall be held in its corporate name subject to the provisions in Article
13 VIII, Section 4 of these Rules of Order. If, on the acquisition of property or
14 the construction of a building, the church shall require the signatures and credit
15 of the Michigan District, the church's property shall be held in the name of the
16 Assemblies of God, Michigan District, until such time as the debt shall be
17 retired.
18

19 **Section 2. Right to Own**
20

21 No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of
22 whatever kind, of the church in excess of a fair market value of \$10,000, shall be
23 taken, or sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated, without the same shall
24 having been authorized by the Official Board. In making such decisions, the
25 Official Board shall endeavor to determine how the proposed action will be
26 received by the members of the church.
27

28 **Section 3. Property Rights**
29

30 Notwithstanding language to the contrary in these Rules of Order, if the
31 Presbyter Board determines, in its sole and unrestricted discretion, that a
32 church has ceased to be a viable church, or no longer adheres to Assemblies of
33 God doctrine and practices, then the Presbyter Board shall have the option to
34 take possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and
35 intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church on behalf of the
36 Assemblies of God, Michigan District, an ecclesiastical corporation organized
37 under the law of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Farmington Hills.
38 It is the parent body for Assemblies of God churches in Michigan and is an
39 integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national
40 headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for
41 religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the
42 Internal Revenue Code. The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall
43 forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at the discretion
44 of the Presbyter Board. All written pre-affiliation agreements between the
45 District and other entities will be honored. Proceeds from the sale or rental of
46 any property under this provision shall be used by the Michigan Missions and
47 Church Planting Ministries Department, or to help purchase land and/or
48 buildings for District Supervised or District Advanced churches at the
49 discretion of the Presbyter Board.
50

1
2
3 **ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS**

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

8 **ARTICLE IX. REPRESENTATION**

9
10 This Home Missions church shall be represented at each District and Sectional
11 Council by its Pastor.
12

13 **ARTICLE X. DEVELOPMENT**

14
15 The Pastor will endeavor to develop the church to a place of maturity where it
16 may be advanced in its classification. Advancement shall be upon the
17 recommendation of the Church Planting and Development Board in
18 accordance with provisions of the District Bylaws. When said advancement is
19 approved by the District Presbyter Board, the church shall be governed by the
20 appropriate Rules of Order or its own Bylaws.

