Constitution and Bylaws of The Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God

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NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

An Affiliate of The General Council
of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri

Revised May 2003

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

PREAMBLE

WE BELIEVE

That God's purpose concerning man finds fulfillment in a priority reason-for-being: 1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world; 2) to be a corporate body in which many may worship God; and 3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

That The Northern New England District Council of 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, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit, gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Therefore, we recognize ourselves to be a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal Assemblies of like precious faith in the Northern New England District of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter called "General Council", whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, not to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God, so that results of our efforts may be conserved and assemblies established and developed along the line of our distinctive testimony; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Corporate Name

The name of this body is The Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. District Organization

The term Northern New England District refers to the district organization.

Section 3. District Council

The term District Council refers to sessions of the corporation.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

This District includes the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and may be divided into Fellowship Sections at the discretion of the annual District Council.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP

This Council is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; therefore, the principles of voluntary unity and cooperative fellowship as set forth in the Constitution of the General Council are the principles which shall govern this District Council.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

The Northern New England District shall stand for the Holy Scriptures as our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Hence the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God Constitution and Bylaws, Article V., is intended as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42).

ARTICLE V. 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, Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 1:10). 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 Ghost (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 Scriptures, 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 persons; 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).

(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 the 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, or 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 Ghost 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and 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 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 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 comes!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

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 enduement 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).

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

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost 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 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, 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, 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 perfected 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.

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 (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 threefold 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).

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; Rev. 21,22).

ARTICLE VI. PREROGATIVES

Section 1. Priorities

a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
e. To supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X. of the General Council Constitution.
f. To establish and maintain such subdivisions, departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the Pentecostal fellowship.
g. To establish churches and provide for their development.
h. To examine individuals who desire Ordination, License to Preach and Certificate of Ministry credentials, who meet the standards of the Scriptures, (2 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and the requirements of the District and the General Councils as set forth in their constitution and bylaws, sending their recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final approval.
i. To approve scriptural teachings, and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX and X of the General Council of the Assemblies of God Bylaws and is incorporated herein by reference. As a creature of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, it is subordinate thereto, and cannot be authorized in any way, to violate the principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God constitutional agreements or bylaws. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed field, the General Council shall be expected to keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.
j. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings,

and to govern itself.

k. Incidental to, or in connection therewith, it shall have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ministers

All Ordained and Licensed ministers and Certified Ministers holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the District, evangelists, District ministers serving at headquarters, those teaching at or attending colleges or Bible schools or serving as missionaries, retired ministers, or those serving in the armed services or chaplaincy, are considered members of The Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Assembly

All local affiliated Assemblies and members of these churches will be recognized as members of The Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers.

The Executive Officers shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. Board of Directors

The Executive Officers, by virtue of their office, shall constitute the Board of Directors of this religious non-profit corporation.

Section 3. Executive Presbytery.

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Sectional Presbyters and the Director of Church Ministries.

Section 4. General Presbyters.

The Northern New England District shall be represented on the General Council General Presbytery by three members; the District Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer. One of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the District. The General Presbytery is the official policy making body of the General Council when the General Council is not in session (See Article IX, Section 3, General Council Constitution).

Section 5. Sectional Presbyters.

There shall be a Sectional Presbyter elected yearly from each of the sections of the District.

Section 6. Assistant Sectional Presbyters.

There shall be an Assistant Sectional Presbyter elected yearly from each of the sections of the District to replace the Sectional Presbyter in the event of a vacancy in the office. The Assistant Presbyter will also aid the Presbyter as needed.

Section 7. Executive Presbytery Nominees.

The Northern New England District Council shall nominate two ministers from its District, one of whom is not an elected full-time District Official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council (See Article IX, Section 3a, General Council Constitution and Article II, Section 2c, General Council Bylaws).

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Council.

The fiscal year of the Northern New England District Council shall be a calendar year of January 1 to December 31 and the Council in session shall convene annually. The time and place of the annual District Council shall be announced by the Executive Presbytery and published no later than one month prior to the time of the meeting.

Section 2. Special Sessions.

Special sessions may be called to meet any emergency that may arise within the District. Such a call shall be issued by the Secretary after the emergency has been fully considered and passed upon by a majority of the Executive Presbytery.

Session 3. Right to Call Special Sessions.

The right of initiative in the matter of calling a special session shall be granted to any ordained minister of the District Council. A statement setting forth the reason for the special session and signed by not less than twenty percent of the ordained ministers of the District may be considered sufficient reason for such a call; said statement to be filed with the Executive Presbytery, who shall issue the call, setting the time and place of the meeting.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event this District Council shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Missouri, not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived therefrom for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of this District Council, its Board of Trustees (or Directors) shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with

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

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special session of the District Council, provided the proposed amendments have been submitted first to the Executive Presbytery for consideration, and then mailed to each member of the District Council at least two months prior to the time of meeting. A two-thirds vote of all members present shall be necessary for adoption.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described.

Christ's gifts to the church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8).

In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized viz., the ordained minister, the licensed minister and the certified minister. An applicant for ministerial recognition in the Fellowship of the District must give testimony to having received the new birth (John 3:5) and having been filled with the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4.

Section 2. Basic Ministry Qualifications

The qualifications for all applicants for ministerial recognition shall conform to General Council Bylaws Article VII "Ministry" section 2, basic qualifications, subsection a-l.

Section 3. Specific Ministry Qualifications

a. Residency Requirements of all Applicants

Applicants for all credentials must reside in or hold credentials in the Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God and must appear before its credential's committee.

b. All other requirements for credentials shall conform to the General Council Bylaws Article VII "Ministry" section 3, "Specific Qualifications" subsections b-d.

c. Time of Ordination.

All ordinations shall take place at the District Council meetings. Exceptions to the rule may be made in special cases of missionaries who must travel to foreign fields between meetings of the Council. Other exceptions may be granted by the Credentials Committee when special conditions warrant.

d. Credentials.

(1) All Certificates shall be issued from the office of the General Council of the Assemblies of God at the request of the Credentials Committee. Fellowship certificates, certifying good standing are issued annually upon completion of the ministerial questionnaire and approval of the District Credentials Committee.

(2) When a minister takes up residence in another District, a Certificate of Transfer shall be issued within sixty days, unless there are definite charges pending against him. Exceptions may be made according to General Council bylaws Article VII "Ministry" section 9 "Transfer of Credentials" paragraph a "Certificate of Transfer" subparagraphs 1-9.

(3) A minister who shall withdraw from active ministry shall be expected to notify the District Secretary who shall be authorized to remove his name and to place it upon an inactive list.

(4) A minister who preaches less than the required number of times per year shall have his name placed upon the inactive list for one year. If such inactivity continues for a second year, he/she shall be removed from the ministerial list. It shall be understood that this does not apply to those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry, nor to inactivity caused by the infirmity of old age or ill health. In such cases, should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his name may be restored to the active list upon application.

e. Ministerial Relations

(1) All ministers shall be amenable to both the District Council and the General Council in matters of doctrine, conduct and practice.

(2) All ordained ministers moving into this District to reside, shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council and to cooperate therewith. They shall obtain a Certificate of Transfer from their former District, to be presented to the Secretary of this District.

(3) A pastor planning on leaving an assembly should give that assembly thirty days notice and should also notify his Presbyter and District Superintendent as soon as possible.

(4) All discourteous conduct is disapproved and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent, or by such communications with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader.

(5) Ministers affiliated with other denominations, and desiring to enter the fellowship of the Assemblies of God, shall be required to show that their character is above question and their purpose to sever their former relationship is honorable. The ordination of such ministers in the Fellowship from which they may have come may be recognized by the District Council.

f. Discipline of Members

Disciplinary action for violations of Assemblies of God principles will be governed by the General Council Bylaws Article X "Discipline" section 3 "Causes of Disciplinary Action."

ARTICLE II. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Recognition

a. All true Pentecostal Christians associating themselves in local bodies as churches shall have the right of recognition by the District Council provided that they meet the standards approved by the General Council and the

District Council in regard to membership, doctrine, order, methods, conduct and all other matters, affecting the harmony of the Fellowship as a whole.

b. Before any designated groups can be recognized as a District Dependent, District Council or General Council Affiliated church, a thorough study shall be made to determine whether they meet the qualifications stipulated in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council and the Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Classification

a. District Dependent Churches

Are recognized groups of Christians desiring affiliation with the Northern New England District or existing churches who fail to meet the minimum requirements of District affiliated status and are governed by the Constitution and Bylaws provided by the District and are entitled to the help of the District Officiary for the obtaining of proper organization.

b. District Affiliated Assemblies

(1) When a church has matured sufficiently to have a list of 16 adult qualified members, among whom are three qualified to be selected as a church board to work with the pastor, the Assembly may apply to the District Presbytery for recognition as a District Affiliated Assembly.

(2) They shall be under the general supervision of the District Presbytery who shall provide pastoral care and other needed guidance, until such time they give evidence of sufficient maturity and membership to qualify for General Council affiliation.

(3) They shall incorporate themselves under the provisions of their respective states.

(4) They shall be given a Certificate of District Affiliation by the District office.

c. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

(1) It shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery to determine when an Assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons. The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws. It may make application to the District Executive Presbytery for General Council affiliation. (See Article VI Section 1 General Council Bylaws)

(2) They shall be set in order by the District officiary, and shall be amenable to the District in doctrine, in conduct, and in all other matters which affect the peace and harmony of the Fellowship.

(3) They shall have the right to choose their own pastor and elect officers.

(4) They shall incorporate themselves under the provisions of their respective states and hold property either by trustees or the corporate name and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local church.

(5) They shall have a standard of membership which shall be determined by agreement with the District Council and shall have the privilege of disciplining members according to such standard.

(6) They shall receive a certificate of General Council Affiliation from Springfield, Missouri.

(7) Assemblies which cannot retain their status as a General Council Affiliated church, by virtue of any General Council ruling, shall revert to District Affiliated status. (Article VI. Section 5. General Council Bylaws).

(8) The District Council recognizes the sovereignty of the local Assembly in accordance with Article XI of the General Council Constitution. Affiliation with the District shall in no wise destroy this sovereignty.

Section 3. Privileges

a. Each Assembly having been set in order in the Fellowship, or under the direct supervision of the District MANNED Board, shall have the right to representation in the District and Sectional Council meetings by a lay delegate. Each lay delegate shall secure a letter, or delegate form provided by the District, signed by the secretary or pastor of the Assembly certifying to his/her appointment to represent the Assembly in the Council meeting. This letter should be presented to the Roster Committee of the District Council while in session.

b. It shall be the privilege of all Assemblies to have the advice and help of the District Presbytery in all vital matters that affect them. They shall have the privilege of securing the services of accredited pastors, evangelists and missionaries, and as many other benefits as may be made possible through the Assemblies of God Fellowship.

c. They shall have access to all benefits of the departments of the District.

Section 4. Duties

a. It shall be the duty of all Assemblies to maintain scriptural order in doctrine and conduct, and to be amenable to the District in all matters affecting the peace and harmony of the Fellowship. Should difficulties arise within the Assembly, it should confer with the District Presbytery for advice and/or relief.

b. When in need of pastor or pastoral change, the local assembly shall seek the advice and assistance of the District Superintendent.

c. Assemblies shall locate a sufficient distance from each other as to facilitate cooperation.

d. Pastors and Assemblies shall deny the pulpit to ministers without proper credentials, until investigation be made. (See General Council Bylaws Article VI Section 3)

e. Local Assemblies are expected to support and participate in the missionary program of the District Council and General Council.

f. They shall assume their cooperative share in the expenses of the District by contributing at least one percent of their General Fund income, as part of their budget.

Section 5. Organizational assistance is available to the respective class of churches under the following criteria.

a. General Council Affiliated Assembly: If requested by the Pastor and/or a majority of the official board of the Church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members. (See General Council Bylaws Article VI Section 4 subsection c)

b. District Affiliated Assembly: If requested by the Pastor and/or a majority of the official board of the Church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members. (See General Council Bylaws Article VI Section 4 subsection c)

c. District Dependent Assembly: If requested by the Pastor and/or a majority of the official board of the Church or a petition signed by 50 percent of the voting members.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND ELECTION

Section 1. Qualifications

The officers of this Council shall be ordained ministers of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability and Christian character and shall have proven themselves faithful in financially contributing to the District as required. They shall be chosen from the membership and shall have been ministering within the District for at least one year.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

a. Voting Members

(1) District Council: The voting constituency shall be all accredited members present and registered. This shall include ordained and licensed ministers, Women's Ministries Director, Royal Rangers Commander, Missionettes Coordinator, and delegates of District Dependent, District and General Council Affiliated Assemblies.

(2) Sectional Council: The voting constituency shall be all accredited members present and registered. This shall include ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, delegates of District dependent, District and General Council affiliated assemblies.

b. Delegate Authorization for District and Sectional Councils

Each delegate chosen by these Assemblies must have a letter of authorization or delegate form signed by the Secretary or Pastor of these Assemblies, certifying their appointment to represent the assembly in the Council meeting. This letter shall be presented to the Roster Committee of the Council while in session.

c. Delegates

Each assembly shall be entitled to one delegate for each 25 adult voting members or fraction thereof. Assemblies with less than 25 adult voting members shall be entitled to one delegate.

Section 3. Nominations and Elections

a. Executive Officers.

All candidates for the executive offices of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or Secretary/Treasurer shall be nominated by secret ballot. All withdrawals should be made prior to the elective ballot. Any individuals who are named on the nominating ballot and who are not in attendance will have their names removed, unless they have given prior notification to an executive officer of their willingness to accept such a nomination. All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received a two-thirds majority of all votes cast. If an election is not declared on the third elective ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be the only nominees to be voted upon until an election is declared.

b. Sectional Presbyters

Sectional Presbyters shall be a resident senior pastor in their respective sections at least one (1) year in order to qualify for election. They shall be nominated in the annual Sectional Council session by ministers and delegates from churches in the section. Delegates must be duly accredited by letters or delegate forms from the secretaries of the churches they represent. Nomination shall be by secret ballot. Any individuals who are named on the nominating ballot and who are not in attendance will have their names removed, unless they have given prior notification to an executive officer of their willingness to accept such a nomination. Voting shall continue until one nominee shall receive a two-thirds majority of votes cast. If an election is not declared on the third elective ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be the only nominees to be voted upon until an election is declared. Nominations so made shall be presented to the District Council, and each Sectional Presbyter shall be ratified individually by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

c. Assistant Sectional Presbyters

An Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be elected in the annual Sectional Council session at which the Sectional Presbyter is nominated. Sectional Presbyters shall be a resident senior pastor in their respective sections at least one

(1) year in order to qualify for election. Should the Sectional Presbyter cease to pastor in the section he/she was elected to represent, or should he/she resign, this vacancy shall be filled by the Assistant Sectional Presbyter. The same qualifications and voting procedures for a Sectional Presbyter shall also apply to the Assistant Sectional Presbyter. Nominations so made shall be presented to the District Council, and each Assistant Presbyter shall be ratified individually by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

d. Sectional Secretary/Treasurer

A Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected in the annual Sectional Council session. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be nominated in the annual Sectional Council session by ministers and delegates from churches in the section. Nominees for this office must be a credential holder and have been residing within the section at least six months. Nomination shall be by secret ballot. Any individuals who are named on the nominating ballot and who are not in attendance will have their names removed, unless they have given prior notification to an executive officer of their willingness to accept such a nomination. All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast. If an election is not declared on the third elective ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be the only nominees to be voted upon until an election is declared. The Sectional Secretary/Treasurer will assume the office upon election.

e. Terms of Office

(1) The term of office for Superintendent shall be for four years; that of Assistant Superintendent two years; that of Secretary/Treasurer shall be for four years. All officers shall commence their duties July 1.

(2) The term of office for Sectional and Assistant Presbyter shall be for one year. They shall commence their duties upon ratification by the District Council.

(3) The term of office for Sectional Secretary/Treasurer shall be from one sectional council until the next.

f. Vacancies of Executive Presbyters

Should a vacancy occur in the executive presbytery through resignation, removal from District, death, or disqualification, a special meeting of the section in which the vacancy occurs will be called for the purpose of nominating a replacement to be ratified by the Executive Presbytery to fill the office until the next meeting of the District Council. Said vacancy is to be filled within 60 days, the meeting to be properly warned at least three weeks in advance. Any office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Presbytery.

g. Vacancies of Sectional Officers

Should a vacancy occur in the sectional office through resignation, removal

from District, death, or disqualification, a special meeting of the section in which the vacancy occurs will be called for the purpose of electing a replacement to fill the office until the next meeting of the Sectional Council. Said vacancy is to be filled within 60 days, the meeting to be properly warned at least three weeks in advance. Any office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Superintendent

a. To act as President of the Corporation in all matters of legal nature and countersign all legal documents.

b. To preside at all meetings of the District Council, the Executive Presbytery, and the Credentials Committee.

c. To supervise all the work of the District during the interim between sessions of the Council; to assist assemblies with personal advice and ministry as the needs may require.

d. To administer discipline when requested to do so by the Executive Presbytery.

e. To be the General Superintendent of all the activities and work which may be related to, or be a part of, the District Council's functions.

f. To perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as he/she may be directed by the District Council or the Executive Presbytery.

g. To be an ex-officio member of all committees.

h. To appoint the various committees of the annual District Council session no later than two weeks prior to that session.

i. To appoint the Director of Church Ministries.

j. To function as a General Presbyter in accordance with Article IX, Section 3, of the General Council Constitution.

k. To be the administrator of the District office.

Section 2. Assistant Superintendent

a. The Assistant Superintendent, by virtue of office, shall be the Vice President of the Corporation.

b. To assist the District Superintendent as far as is practicable.

c. In the absence of District Superintendent, or vacancy in the office, to perform any and all of the functions of the Superintendent's office.

d. To perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as he/she may be directed by the District Council or the Executive Presbytery.

e. To function as a General Presbyter in accordance with Article IX, Section 3, of the General Council Constitution.

Section 3. Secretary

a. To make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council.

b. To revise, edit and publish the District Council and Special Council minutes annually in cooperation with the District Presbytery. To be authorized and instructed to correct and approve the minutes of any regular or special membership meetings of the Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, and to mail one or more copies to each credential holder of the District.

c. To be custodian of the official seal of the District.

d. To act as Secretary of the meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Credentials Committee.

e. To sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are necessary or as may be directed by the District Council, and to be an ex-officio member of all committees.

f. To function as a General Presbyter in accordance with Article IX, Section 3, or the General Council Constitution.

g. To keep a record of all ordained, licensed and certified ministers, and Assemblies in the District Fellowship.

h. To perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as he/she may be directed by the District Council or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. Treasurer

a. To keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, conducting the work of his office according to accepted methods of business.

b. To be the custodian of the District Funds depositing the same in a responsible bank in the name of the District Council.

c. To give report from time to time as may be requested by the Executive Presbytery.

d. To perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as he/she may be directed by the District Council or the Executive Presbytery.

e. To issue a complete, itemized financial report at the annual membership meeting of all income and expenses of the District.

f. To have District records audited by a committee or public accountant annually.

Section 5. Executive Presbytery

a. The Executive Presbytery shall have the general oversight of the activities of the District during the interim between Council sessions. It shall be authorized to act for the District in all emergency matters that affect its interest and to execute decisions. It shall arrange for its own meetings and its decisions shall be final. A majority present at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.

b. Before final action can be taken by the Executive Presbytery on vitally important matters pertaining to the whole District, each section, through its

Presbyter, shall be given the opportunity to discuss and make recommendations concerning said actions. A summary report of all important actions taken by the Executive Presbytery pertaining to the interests of the District, shall be given at each District Council session.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall assist the Superintendent in the oversight of the fellowship meetings, in other District matters and in making investigations.

d. The Executive Presbytery shall act as a Credentials Committee. (See Article V, Section 2, District Bylaws)

Section 6. General Presbyters

The General Presbyters shall officially represent the District at all General Council sessions and gatherings of the General Council Presbytery and shall draw from the Northern New England District General fund such amounts as are deemed necessary to adequately cover their traveling expenses.

Section 7. Sectional and Assistant Presbyters

a. Sectional Presbyter

(1) To be head of all sectional functions and Chairman of the fellowship meetings in his respective section.

(2) To be an ex-officio member of all committees in his section.

(3) To assist pastors or assemblies desiring advice or aid, and if unable to resolve the matter, to refer it to the District Superintendent or the Executive Presbytery for final disposition.

(4) To attend all meetings of the Executive Presbytery.

(5) To perform such other functions as may be customary to his/her office.

b. Assistant Presbyter

In the event of the absence of the Sectional Presbyter, the Assistant Presbyter shall assume the same duties of the Sectional Presbyter. To perform such other functions as may be customary to their office.

ARTICLE V. DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Section 1. Director of Church Ministries

a. Appointment

The Director of Church Ministries shall be appointed by the District Superintendent. The term of office runs concurrent with that of the District Superintendent. The appointment to be ratified by two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery. The Director will be directly accountable to the District Superintendent, administering his departments under the supervision of the District Superintendent. The director shall work out of the District office and therefore, will locate in the greater Portland area.

b. Vacancies

The Director of Church Ministries can be replaced at the discretion of the District Superintendent, which action must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery.

c. Qualifications

The Director of Church Ministries should be an ordained minister, mature in experience, sound in judgment, and should possess recognized ability and Christian character. The Director should be loyal to the District and its leaders, faithful in contributing financially to the District, and submissive to leadership. He/She should possess leadership, initiative, administrative abilities and be a self-starter, energetic, and imaginative.

d. Duties

Be responsible for the promotion and administration of the Christian Education Department, Men's Department and Youth Department and any other duties as assigned by the Superintendent. The director shall serve as a member of the Executive Presbytery with voice but without vote.

Section 2. **Women's Ministries Director**

a. Appointment

The Director of Women's Ministries shall be appointed by the District Superintendent. The term of office runs concurrent with that of the District Superintendent. The appointment must be ratified by two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery. She will be directly accountable to the District Superintendent, administering her departments under the supervision of the District Superintendent.

b. Vacancies

The Director of Women's Ministries can be terminated at the discretion of the District Superintendent, which action must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery.

c. Qualifications

The Director of Women's Ministries should be mature in experience, sound in judgment, and should possess recognized ability and Christian character.

d. Duties

Be responsible for the promotion and administration of the Women's Ministries department and oversight of the Missionettes department.

Section 3. Missionettes Coordinator

a. Appointment

The Missionettes coordinator shall be appointed by the Women's Ministries Director. The term of office will be annual. The appointment must be ratified by two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery. She will be directly accountable to the Women's Ministries Director, administering her department under the supervision of the Women's Ministries Director.

b. Vacancies

The Missionettes Coordinator can be replaced at the discretion of the District Superintendent, which action must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery.

c. Qualifications

The Missionettes Coordinator should be mature in experience, sound in judgment, and should possess recognized ability and Christian character.

d. Duties

Be responsible for the promotion and administration of the Missionettes department and oversight of the Missionettes department.

Section 4. Royal Ranger's Commander

a. Appointment

The District Superintendent shall by virtue of his office, serve as the Executive Director of the Royal Rangers program or may appoint an Executive Director to oversee the program. The District Superintendent or Executive Director may appoint, subject to the approval of the District Presbytery, a District Royal Rangers Commander. The term of office for the District Royal Ranger Commander shall be for two years or until his successor is appointed.

b. Vacancies

The Royal Ranger Commander can be replaced at the discretion of the District Superintendent, which action must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery.

c. Qualifications

The Royal Ranger Commander must meet the qualifications outlined in the Royal Ranger policy manual.

d. Duties

Be responsible for the promotion and administration of the Royal Rangers department and oversight of the Royal Rangers department.

Section 5. Communications Secretary

There shall be a Communications Secretary appointed each year by the District Presbytery. He/She shall serve as a liaison representative between Revivaltime/Media Ministries and the District.

Section 6. Benevolence Secretary

There shall be a Benevolence Secretary appointed each year by the District Presbytery. He/She shall serve as a liaison representative between the National Department of Benevolences and the District.

ARTICLE VI.COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall be appointed with the counsel of the District

Superintendent in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery, and the term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the District Council.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

a. Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute a Credentials Committee. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

b. Duties

The Credentials Committee shall meet as directed by the District Superintendent. They shall examine all candidates for ordination, license and certified ministers' credentials. Their recommendation shall be forwarded to the General Council Secretary's office.

Section 3. Finance Committee

There shall be a District Finance Committee appointed by the Superintendent. This committee shall be responsible for preparing budgets and carrying out the duties assigned it under the District Bylaws and Standing Resolutions and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the District Presbytery. It shall meet at the call of the Chairman of the committee or the District Superintendent.

Section 4. Advisory Committees

These committees shall be comprised of three individuals for each department. They shall serve in an advisory capacity with the Director of Church Ministries. Their selection shall be by the District Presbytery, with the term of office being one year. These committees shall offer guidelines for the raising and allocation of funds in these departments and shall assist in the administration of the office of Director of Church Ministries. They shall contribute to the planning and programming of their respective departments. These committees shall arrange for their own meetings. Operational funds for these committees shall be paid from the departmental funds.

Sectional 5. Sectional Representatives

Each section shall have a representative for Christian Education, Youth Ministries, and Men's Ministries to serve their respective section. They shall serve on the department's committee.

The Sectional Representative shall be selected by the Director of Church Ministries in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter and shall be ratified by the District Presbytery. If an individual selected is not a credential holder, approval by the local pastor shall be required. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Director of Church Ministries and Sectional Presbyter.

They shall seek all possible opportunities of promoting their department's endeavors within the section they represent. They shall assist the Director of Church Ministries in carrying out the purpose and program of their departments and

shall promote the national campaigns and special programs within the section. Operational expenses for the Sectional Representatives shall be funded by the sectional funds for sectional activities.

Section 6. Board of Trustees, Valley Forge Christian College

Representatives of the District shall serve on the Board of Trustees of Valley Forge Christian College each year. The Superintendent and the Director of Church Ministries will serve by virtue of their office. The other representatives will be appointed by the District Presbytery in accordance with requirements of Valley Forge Christian College.

Section 7. Board of Trustees, Zion Bible Institute

Representatives of the District shall serve on the Board of Trustees of Zion Bible College each year. The Superintendent and the Secretary/Treasurer will serve by virtue of their office. Any other representatives will be appointed by the District Presbytery in accordance with requirements of Zion Bible Institute.

Section 8. Special Committees

Special committees may be created at the District Council while in session or by the Executive Presbytery between sessions as may be required.

Section 9. Qualifications of Committee Members

Committee members shall be individuals of sound judgement, recognized ability, Christian character, and shall have proven themselves faithful in financially contributing as required.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Quorum

All accredited ministers and delegates of the District Council, who are present and registered by the Roster Committee, shall constitute the voting constituency or quorum. The courtesy of the floor will be granted visiting ministers from other Districts; the right to vote shall be withheld.

Section 2. Order of Meetings

a. Call to Order
b. Report of Roster committee
c. Report of Superintendent
d. Report of Secretary
e. Report of Treasurer
f. Report of Committees
g. Unfinished Business
h. Revised Report of Roster Committee
i. Election of Officers
j. New Business
k. Adjournment

Section 3. Resolutions

All resolutions shall be submitted to the Executive Presbytery thirty (30) days prior to the Council, with the exception of Constitutional changes which require sixty (60) days' notice and resolutions arising from the Presbytery meeting, or those acknowledging service to the Council.

Section 4. Rules of Order

In order to expedite the work of the Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the Council shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised, all in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII. DISTRICT SECTIONAL DIVISIONS

Section 1. Purpose

The District shall be divided into geographical Sections to promote Home Missions, unite sectional activities and afford opportunity for fellowship and mutual counsel for the ministry of the sections.

Section 2. Sections

The names of the eight sections shall be as follows: Aroostook Section, Northern Section, North Central Section, Central Section, White Mountain Section, Southeast Section, Northwest Section and Southwest Section.

Section 3. Sectional Boundaries

The boundaries of the respective sections (including assignment or reassignment of churches therein) shall be established in the discretion of the District Presbytery, (either by request of affected local church(es) or to better serve the overall needs of fellowship, travel, and communication within a section), and shall be ratified by the District Council.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. Christian Education Department

a. Purpose

There shall be a Christian Education Department to promote Christian education efforts and interest in the District and to sponsor District and local rallies, institutes and conventions.

b. Organization

The Director of Church Ministries shall be responsible for leadership of the Christian Education Department. The director shall be assisted by a 3-person Advisory Committee nominated by the Director of Church Ministries and appointed by the District Presbytery for a one year term, and a Sectional Representative from each section to be appointed by the Director of Church Ministries in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter and ratified by the District Presbytery, for a one year term.

c. Programs

The Christian Education department shall sponsor and encourage activities and/or programs as may prove beneficial to the Christian Education needs of the District.

d. Finances

In order to facilitate the advancement of Christian Education, a fund shall be created. It is to be used entirely for the Northern New England District's Christian Education ministries. It is recommended that each church contribute to the District Christian Education Fund each month at least one-tenth (1/10) of its Christian Education/Sunday School offerings.

e. Relationship

The Christian Education Department of the Northern New England District shall be considered as a vital part of the District and subservient thereto in all matters affecting the general District Fellowship.

Section 2. Youth Ministries Department

a. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the spiritual lives of the young people of this fellowship, to give expression which shall be especially adapted to the needs of the young people and to further the interest of the Kingdom of God through the instrumentality of the young people of this District.

b. Organization

The Director of Church ministries shall be responsible for leadership of the Youth Department. He/She shall be assisted by a 3-person Advisory Committee nominated by the Director of Church Ministries and appointed by the District Presbytery for a one year term, and a Sectional Representative from each section to be appointed by the Director of Church Ministries in consultation with the Sectional Presbytery and ratified by the District Presbytery, for a one year term.

c. Programs

The Youth department shall sponsor and encourage activities and/or programs as may prove beneficial to the Youth needs of the District.

d. Finances

In order to facilitate the advancement of Youth Ministries, a fund shall be created. It is to be used entirely for the Northern New England District's Youth Ministries. It is recommended that each church contribute to the District Youth Ministries Fund each month at least one-tenth (1/10) of its Youth department offerings.

e. Relationship

The Director of Church Ministries, Advisory Committee and Sectional Youth Ministries Representatives shall always recognize themselves as under the jurisdiction of the District Council and shall be subservient in all matters relative to the District Council and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. **Men's Ministries**

a. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the spiritual lives of the men of this fellowship, to give expression which shall be especially adapted to the needs of the men and to further the interest of the Kingdom of God through the instrumentality of the men of this District.

b. Organization

The Director of Church Ministries shall be responsible for leadership of the Men's Department. He/She shall be assisted by a 3-person Advisory Committee nominated by the Director of Church Ministries and appointed by the District Presbytery for a one year term, and a Sectional Representative from each section to be appointed by the Director of Church Ministries in consultation with the Sectional Presbytery and ratified by the District Presbytery, for a one year term.

c. Programs

The Men's department shall sponsor and encourage activities and/or programs as may prove beneficial to the men's needs of the District.

d. Finances

In order to facilitate the advancement of Men's Ministries, a fund shall be created. It is to be used entirely for the Northern New England District's Men's ministries. It is recommended that each church contribute to the District Men's Ministries Fund each month at least one-tenth (1/10) of its Men's department offerings.

e. Relationship

The Men's Ministries shall always recognize themselves as under the jurisdiction of the District Council and shall be subservient in all matters relative to the District Council and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. **Royal Rangers' Ministries**

a. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the spiritual lives of the boys of this fellowship, to give expression which shall be especially adapted to the needs of the boys and to further the interest of the Kingdom of God through the instrumentality of the boys of this District.

b. Organization

The Royal Rangers' Commander shall be responsible for leadership of the Royal Rangers Department. He shall be assigned 3 deputy commanders, and a Sectional Representative from each section to be appointed by the Royal Rangers Commander in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter of each section, then ratified by the District Presbytery, for a one year term.

c. Programs

The Royal Rangers department shall sponsor and encourage activities and/or programs as may prove beneficial to the boy's needs of the District.

d. Finances

In order to facilitate the advancement of Royal Rangers ministries a fund shall be created. It is to be used entirely for the Northern New England District's Royal Rangers' ministries.

e. Relationship

The Royal Rangers' Ministries shall always recognize themselves as under the jurisdiction of the District Council and shall be subservient in all matters relative to the District Council and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 5. Women's Ministries

a. Purpose

The Women's Ministries exists to train and mobilize women for ministry in the local church, in various District endeavors, and in home and foreign missionary work.

b. Organization

The Women's Ministries Director shall be responsible for leadership of the Women's Ministries Department. She shall be assisted by an Assistant Director, Secretary, and a Sectional Representative from each section to be appointed by the Women's Ministries Director in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter of each section, then ratified by the District Presbytery, for a one year term.

c. Programs

The Women's Ministries department shall sponsor and encourage activities and/or programs as may prove beneficial to the women's needs of the District.

d. Finances

In order to facilitate the advancement of Women's Ministries, a fund shall be created. It is to be used entirely for the Northern New England District's Women's Ministries.

e. Relationship

The Women's Ministries shall always recognize themselves as under the jurisdiction of the District Council and shall be subservient in all matters relative to the District Council and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. **Missionettes' Ministries**

a. Purpose

There shall be a department known as Missionettes Ministries to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws for the Women's Ministries of the Northern New England District.

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the spiritual lives of the girls of this fellowship, to give expression which shall be especially adapted to the needs of the girls and to further the interest of the Kingdom of God through the

instrumentality of the girls of this District.

b. Organization

The Missionettes Coordinator shall be responsible for leadership of the Missionettes department. She shall be assisted by an Assistant Director, Secretary, and a Sectional Representative from each section to be appointed by the Missionettes Coordinator in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter of each section, then ratified by the District Presbytery, for a one year term.

c. Programs

The Missionettes department shall sponsor and encourage activities and/or programs as may prove beneficial to the girl's needs of the District.

d. Finances

In order to facilitate the advancement of Missionettes Ministries a fund shall be created. It is to be used entirely for the Northern New England District's Missionettes Ministries.

e. Relationship

The Missionettes Ministries shall always recognize themselves as under the jurisdiction of the District Council and shall be subservient in all matters relative to the District Council and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 7. Departmental Policy Manual

a. Each department shall have a policy manual outlining the specific details of its operation.
b. The original policy manual and subsequent changes must be approved by the executive presbytery.
c. The Executive Presbytery are free to change the policy manuals at will by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Presbytery.
d. All District credential holders and department volunteers will be held accountable to follow and adhere to the policies set forth for each department by the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE X. MISSIONS

Recognizing our obligation to fulfill the Great Commission (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8), we shall endeavor by all proper and scriptural means to promote World Missions both at home and abroad.

Section 1. Foreign Missions Department

a. Purpose

To reach the unevangelized people of the world. The District encourages all Assemblies to provide for regular offerings through the various departments of each church, and cooperate with the Missions Department of the General Council in its world outreach.

b. Structure

The District Superintendent shall oversee the Foreign Missions Department of the District.

(1) Mission department shall:

(a) Assist missionaries who desire to come to our District, arranging meetings for them.

(b) Contact missionaries and arrange at least two missionary tours a year.

(2) Finances

This department shall be supported by five percent (5%) of the offerings received by missionaries who minister in our District.

Section 2. Home Missions Department

a. Missions Advance Northern New England District. This term refers to the Church planting and revitalization program of Northern New England formulated to reach the unevangelized of our District, by planting new churches.

b. District Dependent Churches. This term refers to new church plants or revitalization that may or may not receive MANNED support.

c. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. This term refers to Chi Alpha ministries within our district that are in conjunction with our national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.

d. Teen Challenge. This term refers to Teen Challenge ministries within our district that are in conjunction with our national Teen Challenge Ministries.

e. Institutional Chaplaincy. This term refers to our ministry within institutions such as hospitals, prisons, and other institutions that allow for chaplains.

f. Deaf Ministry. This term refers to our ministry to the deaf community.

g. Other Specialized Ministries. This term refers to any other district sponsored program that may come under Home Missions.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES AND PROPERTY

Section 1. Finances

a. General Fund

(1) The District Council Fund shall be available for the support of the District officers, the District Council office, traveling expenses and other necessary District expense except that directly associated with Home Missions. All other funds sent to the District office are to be disbursed under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

(2) Director of Church Ministries. The expense of this position and the director's financing will come from the General Fund and/or from the departmental funds as determined by the Presbytery. All departmental

expenses, such as travel, promotional, postage, programming, etc., shall be funded by departmental funds. It is recommended that each church's Christian Education, Men's, Youth Ministries departments contribute to the respective District departments at least 10% of their monthly offerings for the support and operation of the department of Church Ministries.

(3) We believe that an individual relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Ephesians 4:28; Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Galatians 6:6; 1 John 3:17.

b. Ministers' Tithes

(1) It is required that Ordained and Licensed Credential Holders contribute a sum of money equivalent to eighty-five percent (85%) of their tithes from both ministerial and secular income, sending it at least once a month to the District office. It is recommended that ministers working outside the District contribute a sum of money equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of their tithes and that evangelists working among us leave part of their tithes in the District. Those holding a Certificate of Ministry contribute a sum of money equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of their tithes. This money is to be sent once a month to the District office. Each candidate for credentials and all transferring into the District shall receive this information stating their financial obligations to the District.

(2) Senior Ministers

(a) Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the District office as set forth in Bylaw Article XI, Section 1. b. 1.

(b) Senior retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the District office.

c. Assembly Tithe to District

It is requested that each assembly send one percent (1%) of its General Fund income to the District Treasurer for the support of the District General Fund.

d. Fees

All fees in connection with the application for credentials and for annual fellowship certificates shall go toward the expenses of the Credentials Committee and for the issuing of credentials, keeping of records, etc.

e. Delinquent Ministers' Tithes

The District Secretary/Treasurer shall contact any and all credential holders of the Northern New England District Council who after two successive months fail to send the appropriate portion of tithes as agreed. If the issue is not resolved, the credential holder shall appear in person before the District Presbytery.

f. Estimation of Operational Income and Expenses

An estimate of operational income and expenses shall be presented semi-annually to the Presbytery by the finance committee.

(1) The Presbytery shall review and act upon these estimates of operational income and expenses prior to the annual District Council meeting and a copy shall be printed in the Council brochure.

(2) Authorizations to increase spending levels or to transfer funds within the approved estimates shall rest with the District Presbytery or with a regular or specially called District Council.

(3) The District Presbytery shall be authorized to appropriate funds for emergency repairs to District property. If cash resources are not available for this emergency appropriation, the Presbytery shall be authorized to use its power to borrow the necessary funds.

Section 2. Property

a. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute a Board of Trustees.

b. All property of the District shall be deeded to and held by the trustees legally elected by the District and their successors in office. The purchase and disposal of all real property of the District by sale, lease, mortgage, or other means, with the exception of those home missionary properties used by local churches such as church property, buildings, parsonages, and other equipment shall first have been recommended by a two-thirds vote of the Northern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God at a regular or special meeting. The Superintendent and Secretary of the District shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the said District Council. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof. If properties abutting the District headquarters becomes available and in the judgment of the Presbytery the purchase of such properties would be advantageous for future development, and whereas, delay in waiting or calling a special Council for that purpose would undermine the purchase of that property, the District Presbytery be authorized to act on behalf of the District on such a proposal. A two-thirds vote of the Presbytery would be required for approval.

c. The disposal of all aforementioned Home Missions properties may be made by action of the Executive Presbytery. When it shall be the prerogative of the Executive Presbytery to buy, sell or exchange such properties as are listed as Home Missions properties, for the purpose of advancing the cause of missions and establishing new churches, such sale, purchase or exchange shall be for District benefit only, and no private gain may be derived therefrom.

ARTICLE XII. MILITARY SERVICE

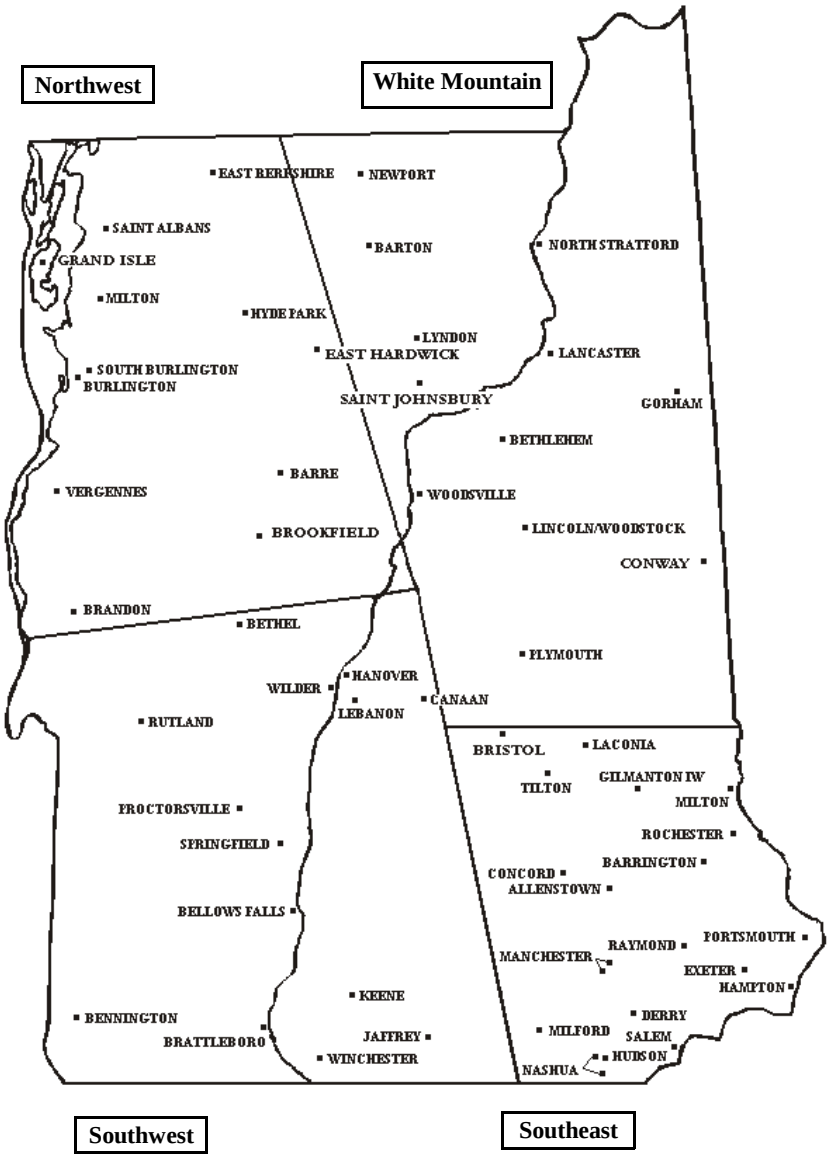
As a movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose for himself whether to declare his position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

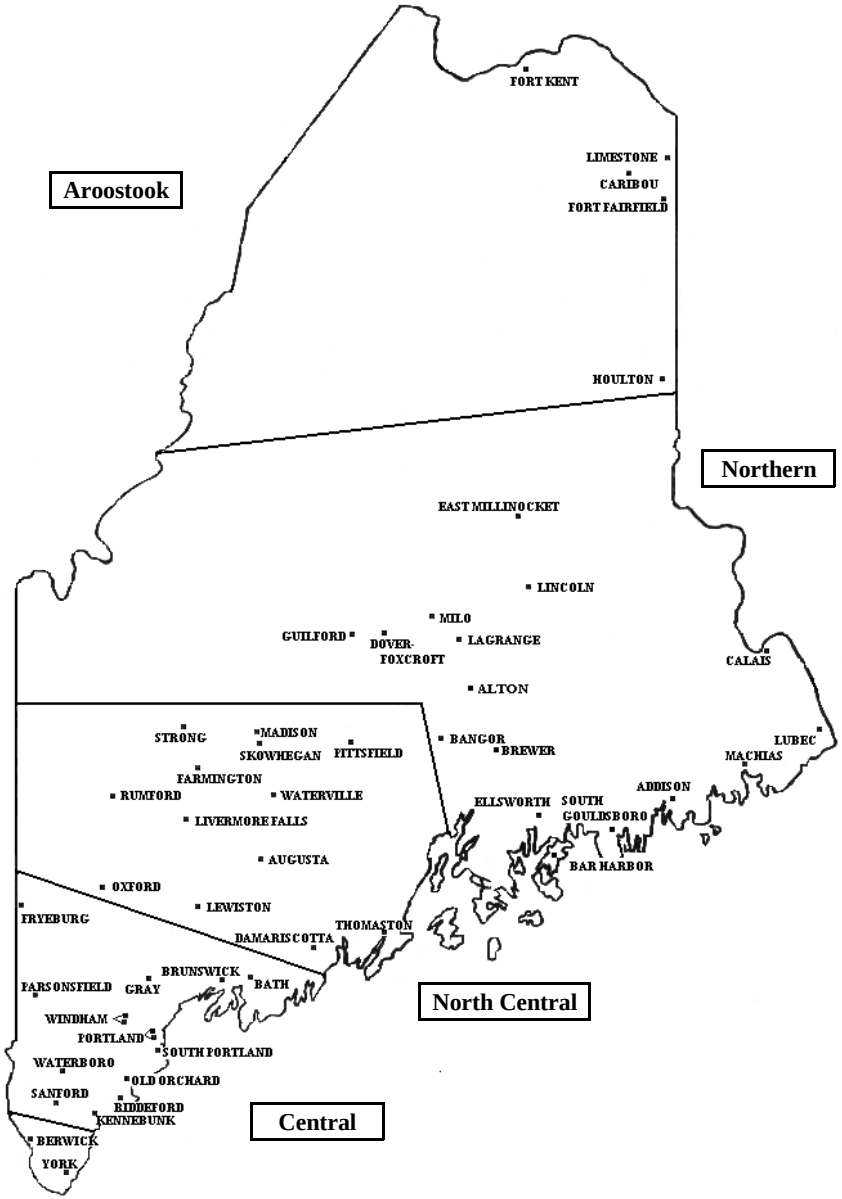
ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or specially called meeting of the District Council, provided the proposed amendments have been submitted first to the Executive Presbytery for consideration, and then mailed to each member of the District Council at least one month prior to the time of meeting. Amendments to be adopted shall require a two-thirds majority of all votes cast.

Vermont and New Hampshire Sections



Maine Sections



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