

**CONSTITUTION  
and  
BYLAWS  
for**

**Troy Community Church**  
Troy, Alabama 36579

Adopted this 4th day of September, 2016

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## **Preamble**

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

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this assembly shall be Troy Community Church in Troy, Alabama.

### **ARTICLE II TERRITORY**

The facility is located at 1300 Henderson Highway, Troy, Alabama.

### **ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES**

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

#### **1. To Govern**

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

#### **2. To Acquire and Dispose**

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, this assembly shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

### **3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate**

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

### **4. To Cooperate**

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

### **5. To Recognize**

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

## **ARTICLE IV AFFILIATION**

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

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements for a pastor to those standards set by the District Council and the General Council.

By its affiliation, the assembly - directors, officers, and members - agree that no provision of these Bylaws shall be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of both the Alabama District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

## **ARTICLE V THE TENETS OF FAITH**

This assembly agrees with and agrees to follow the Tenets of Faith of the **Alabama District Council**, and the **General Council of the Assemblies of God**. These tenets can be found on the organizational web sites of both entities and within the annual copy of the Alabama District Council Constitution and ByLaws.

## **ARTICLE VI ORDINANCES**

**SECTION 1.** The ordinance of Christian baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

**SECTION 2.** The ordinances of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Lu 22:19, 20; I Cor 11:23-26).

## **ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this assembly shall consist of all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth. They shall be classified as active, inactive and junior as defined in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VIII GOVERNMENT**

Constituency. The government of the assembly shall be vested in the active membership of the assembly, whose action by the majority vote (except when otherwise specified in the Constitution or By-Laws), shall be decisive in all matters, its decisions to be executed by its duly elected officials.

## **ARTICLE IX OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS**

**SECTION 1.** Pastor. There shall be a pastor elected by the assembly.

**SECTION 2.** Leadership. The Leadership shall consist of the Pastor, as Chairman, and the duly elected Official Leadership Members.

**SECTION 3.** Secretary-Treasurer and the Finance Committee. There shall be a Secretary-Treasurer elected from the members of the Official Leadership or another individual appointed by the Leadership to execute the trust of this office and to serve as the chair of a Finance Committee.

**SECTION 4.** Sunday School Officers. There shall be a Sunday School Superintendent nominated by the membership and then ratified by the assembly; unless a Minister of Christian Education is a part of the Pastor's ministerial staff.

**SECTION 5.** Missions Committee. There shall be a Missions Committee consisting of Departmental Leaders; along with one other individual appointed by the Pastor which will solely be responsible for the promoting of missions in the church body.

**SECTION 6.** Other officers. Herein is provided for the election by the assembly, or the appointments of same by the Official board as outlined in the By-Laws, of any and all other officials that may be needed to meet the requirements of the assembly.

## **ARTICLE X MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** Church Services. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and Board of Leaders.

**SECTION 2.** Business Meetings. There shall be an annual business meeting of the Assembly, and special business meetings as need shall arise in the manner hereinafter provided by the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE XI DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

This Assembly shall create and maintain such departments and committees as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and committees shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Official Leadership, and the Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

## **ARTICLE XII FINANCES**

All funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Official Leadership and shall be administered by the Finance Committee under their direction.  
(Mal 3: 10; Lu 6:38; I Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 9:6-8)

## **ARTICLE XIII PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**SECTION 1.** This Assembly shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama. All property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No real property of the Assembly shall be purchased, sold, leased or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the Assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

**SECTION 2.** In case of a defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the Alabama District Council of the Assemblies of God or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to the practicing of the above mentioned Tenets of Faith, and retaining their affiliation with the Assemblies of God shall hold possession of and full title to all property of the assembly with full rights under the provision of this Constitution and Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution and ByLaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose. Any such request must be given to a member of the Official Leadership and signed by the individual no later than sixty (60) days prior to a Business Meeting. The proposed amendments must then be submitted in writing to the voting constituency at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Articles of Faith, which stands regardless of majority.

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1. Membership Eligibility.**

(A) Each candidate for membership in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3 :5-8) and to having received the Holy Spirit or to be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2,4). It is expected that each applicant will follow 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 (Matt. 28:19).

(B) A sincere belief in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct; contribute regularly to the support of the Assembly with tithes and offerings (1 Cor. 16:2 & Mal. 3:8-10); refraining from the use of alcoholic substances for the purpose of being intoxicated (Pr. 20:1, 23:29-32; Rm. 13:13; I Co. 6:10; Eph. 5: 18); refraining from any activity that would be harmful to their spiritual life and witness (2 Co. 6:14-18; 1 John 2:15-17, 1 John 3:3); refraining from the use of any habit forming substance in any form (2 Tm. 1:7; 2 Co. 7: 1); abstaining from the sins of the flesh (1 Co. 5:11; Ga. 5:18-21); and a hope and expectancy of the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, are considered to be necessary for membership.

## **SECTION 2. Reception of Members.**

The Official Leadership shall serve as the membership committee to pass upon and review all candidates for membership in this Assembly. Those desiring to apply for membership shall fill out the application form provided by the church and submit it to the Pastor. If the Leadership approves of the applicant for membership, he/she may then be publicly received at any convenient service and his name inscribed upon the membership roll.

## **SECTION 3. Active Members.**

Active membership shall consist of those who meet the qualifications for membership as stated in Section 1 of this article. They shall include those whose names appeared on the original membership roll of this Assembly at the time this Assembly was first organized and/or those whose names shall be added from time to time. All active members shall regularly attend and participate in the services, and shall regularly contribute to the financial support of the Assembly with their tithes and offerings according to their individual incomes.

## **SECTION 4. Inactive Members.**

(A) Those who fail to meet any of the aforementioned qualifications for active membership.  
(B) Those who shall have moved from the community, but have not yet transferred their membership to another church, together with those who for any other cause (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have absented themselves from the regular services of the Assembly for a period of ninety (90) days or more, shall be classified as inactive members and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the Assembly. If such inactive member shall have become active again by resumed attendance at church services, and if he/she has not departed from the standard of membership of the Assembly, the Official Board may return his name to the active list without formal reception into membership again.

## **SECTION 5. Junior Members.**

Junior members shall consist of those individuals who meet the aforementioned qualifications for membership but as of yet have not reached their eighteenth birthday. Upon their eighteenth (18th) birthday they may apply for adult membership and thereby gain the privilege of voting in all matters of church business.

## **SECTION 6. Discipline.**

(A) If any member of this church shall, in the opinion of the Official Board, fall below the standard of membership as stated above, in faith or practice, his membership in the church shall be terminated and his name removed from the membership list. It is understood that no such action shall be taken unless and until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such individual back to the standard of faith and conduct of this church. If any individual removed from membership shall protest the action of the Official Leadership in the matter, he shall be entitled to a hearing before the church. The action of the Assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final.  
(B) Should any member of the church, in the opinion of the Official Board, fall below the standard of the membership as stated above, in faith or practice, or should his spirit be contentious and discordant to the well-being of church life, his membership in this church may be placed on probation at the discretion of the Official Board for a specific or indefinite time. He may be restored from such inactive status to active membership in the same manner. Such disciplined member shall be informed of such action, and shall have the right of protest within thirty (30) days of such information. Such protests shall be in writing and addressed to the Official Board; and shall entitle such disciplined member to a hearing before the church. The action of the Assembly by a majority vote shall be considered final. Voting privileges of such disciplined member shall be suspended. If he protests and is restored to active membership by the action of the church, full membership privileges shall be restored.

## **SECTION 7. Voting Membership.**

All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership, together with those names which shall be added from time to time and are listed as active members, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the Assembly; provided they are eighteen (18) years of age or over, that they

regularly attend the meetings which are the means of grace and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony, and faithfully support the church with their tithes and offerings.

#### **SECTION 8. Revision of Membership Roll.**

The Official Leadership shall be authorized and duly charged to revise the membership roll annually during the month of December in preparation for the Annual Business Meeting which is to be held in February of each year. The Leadership is to respectfully remove, transfer to inactive list, or drop from the active membership all names of those deceased during the year, those who may have transferred their membership, those who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the Assembly (see Section Six (6)) and/or those who may have willfully absented themselves from the church services for a period of ninety (90) days. Those who are removed from the active membership roll shall be notified by mail of the decision of the Leadership.

#### **SECTION 9. Transferal of Membership.**

A letter of transfer, signed by the Pastor and/or the Secretary-Treasurer, shall be granted upon request. Such letter shall be addressed to the Pastor or Secretary of the receiving church and shall state whether the member is classified as an active or inactive member.

### **ARTICLE II. QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION 1. Pastor**

The Pastor shall be the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the President of the corporation and shall act as Chairman of the Official Board. He shall be a member, ex-officio, of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without the consent and/or approval of the Pastor. He shall choose his staff of workers (Assistant Pastors, Music Directors, Educational Directors, Youth Pastors, etc.) with the approval of the Official Leadership. The Pastor is also responsible to dismiss from duty any of the church staff.

#### **SECTION 2. Official Leadership**

The Official Leadership shall consist of the Pastor and not less than three (3) or more than twelve (12) other individuals. Members for the Leadership are to be nominated by the Pastor or any members in the Leadership team and approved by the Leadership with at least a two-thirds majority. The Leadership shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor so that they become an extension of our Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances.

#### **SECTION 3. Secretary-Treasurer**

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Leadership and of the annual and all special business meetings of the Assembly. They shall keep a record of the membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. They shall be the custodian of all legal documents, which shall be kept in the Church Office. They shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly which may be committed to him/her. They shall deposit all funds in a bank in the name of the Assembly, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Pastor and/or the Finance Committee. A Bookkeeper may be appointed by the Official Leadership or the Pastor to assist the Treasurer in the proper execution of their duties. The Secretary-Treasurer shall cause to be kept an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. They shall make an itemized report at the regular meetings of the Leadership and at the regular business meetings of the Assembly. Their accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Leadership.

## **ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

### **SECTION 1. Election of Pastor**

(A) Pastor Qualifications. The Pastor shall be a fully qualified Assembly of God minister in good standing with the General Council and District Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be in harmonious accord with these Bylaws. He shall be a person of good report whose life and conduct conform to the Scriptures (I Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3).

(B) Nominations. The Official Leadership, in the absence of a Pastor, is to investigate pastoral candidates. Recommendations may be made to the Leadership by the District Superintendent, Sectional Presbyterian or any member of the Assembly.

The Leadership shall ask for a record of his ministry from his district. No pastoral candidate shall be considered until they have been nominated by the Leadership.

(C) Initial Election. The Pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time. He shall be nominated by the Official Leadership. Elections shall be by secret ballot and he must receive a two-thirds vote of the voting Church Membership to constitute an election.

(D) Subsequent Elections. Only the Pastor and/or the Official Leadership may call for a vote of confidence. If it is called for by the Pastor, the results of the vote may remain known only to himself, if he so desires. If called for by the Official Leadership, then it would be necessary for him to receive a simple majority vote to continue as Pastor. The results of this balloting process would become a matter of public record and knowledge.

(E) Recourse. Power is vested in the Official Leadership to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular or special business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the Pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Leadership has been confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose. When a vacancy in the Pastorate shall occur, a supply of speakers shall be arranged for by the Leadership until a Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in this section. Any action against a Pastor by the church is not to be considered as otherwise affecting the standing of the Pastor with the District or General Council fellowship.

(P) Remunerations. Power is vested in the Finance Committee to set the salary and expense allowance of the Pastor and all other employees of the Church.

(G) Resignation. It shall be agreed between the Pastor and the Assembly at the time of his election that, should he resign, he will give the Assembly at least thirty days notice before vacating the Pulpit. It shall be further agreed that, should the Official Board or Assembly request the Pastor's resignation, they will grant him (except in cases which involve moral turpitude) at least thirty days in which to vacate the pulpit or else pay him thirty days salary in advance. Also, upon the Pastor's resignation, and in accordance with the acceptable ministerial ethics of our fellowship, his staff is also expected to resign.

### **SECTION 2. Election of Official Leadership**

(A) Nominations. The Pastor or a member of the Leadership can nominate a person for the Official Leadership.

(B) Terms of Office. Leadership members shall be elected by a secret ballot of a two-thirds majority.

(C) Meetings. The Official Leadership shall meet monthly or at the call of the Pastor who serves as the Chair. No meetings of the Official Leadership may be called for by members of the Leadership without the consent of the Pastor, unless the Pastor has resigned or the Leadership finds it necessary to discuss matters pertaining to the Pastor's effectiveness or to investigate serious charges against the Pastor.

(D) Chairman. In accordance with By-Law Article II, Section 1, the Pastor shall serve as the Chairman of the Leadership and President of the corporation.

(E) Vice-Chairman. A Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the Leadership from among the members of that body. He/she shall serve as Chair of the Leadership, in the absence of a Pastor, and shall be elected by secret ballot for a two (2) year term.

(F) Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business at regular or special meetings of the Leadership shall consist of a majority of Leadership Members.

## **ARTICLE IV DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 1. Sunday School**

The Sunday School shall be considered as that department of the church which particularly provides for the teaching, education and maturity of the flock. In the absence of a Minister of Christian Education as part of the Pastor's ministerial staff nominations (ideally two (2) or more) for Sunday School Superintendent will be made by the active membership. Upon the nominee allowing their name to be considered, they will be up for election at the annual called business meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot and will require a two-thirds vote to constitute an election. The Sunday School Executive Committee (Pastor, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent) shall have the right and obligation to appoint all other Sunday School officers, secretaries, teachers and workers.

All officers, workers and teachers are to serve for a term of one year. Teachers and workers shall execute their duties as outlined by the executive committee.

### **SECTION 2. The Youth Department**

The Youth Department shall promote spiritual growth, fellowship and service among the young people of the Assembly. The department shall be subservient to the church body and under the supervision of the Pastor.

### **SECTION 3. The Women's Ministries**

The Women of the Assembly shall encourage the development of Women's Ministries. They shall meet at stated times for the purpose of fostering closer fellowship and to assist in a practical way the work of the church locally, in the district, and throughout the world.

The leader of this ministry shall be appointed by the Pastor or the Leadership if the Pastor desires to use that body with their typical rules.

### **SECTION 4. The Men's Ministries**

The Men of the Assembly shall encourage the development of Men's Ministries. They shall meet at stated times for the purpose of fostering closer fellowship and to assist in a practical way the work of the church locally, in the district, and throughout the World. Officers shall be nominated from their membership.

The leader of this ministry shall be appointed by the Pastor or the Leadership if the Pastor desires to use that body with their typical rules.

### **SECTION 5. The Missions Department**

The Missions Department shall gain oversight through the Finance Committee. This includes financial support from the church and any special meetings to promote missions.

### **SECTION 6. Other Ministries**

Additional ministries and departments are encouraged to be formed as the need arises to properly carry out the work of the church. All such departments shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor with all necessary officers being appointed by the Pastor or Official Leadership.

## **ARTICLE V MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1 Annual Business Meeting**

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly, at which time reports from each department shall be given. This meeting shall be held in February of each year, the time and place to be announced by the Pastor. Due notice is to be given on the two (2) Sundays prior to the date of meeting.

### **SECTION 2 Special Business Meetings**

Special business meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary by the Pastor or by

a majority of the members of the Official Leadership after due notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the Assembly. Notice may be given on the two (2) preceding Sundays or ten (10) days before the special called meeting. No more than one petition shall be recognized in two calendar years pertaining to the same subject. It is the understanding that this would also include the office of Pastor.

### **SECTION 3 Access To The Business Meeting Agenda**

Prior to the Annual Business meeting, every active voting member may have opportunity to present on the agenda any item for discussion that they feel may be helpful and harmonious to discuss. Any such request must be given to a member of the Official Leadership and signed by the individual no later than sixty (60) days prior to the Business Meeting. This time of notice may be dismissed by the vote of the Leadership following the rules of that body.

### **SECTION 4 Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of one-third of the active church members present at any regular or special called business meeting, providing that ample notice of the meeting in both written and verbal form has been given two (2) Sundays prior to said meeting explaining the general agenda to be covered.

### **SECTION 5 Absentee Voting**

Since the practice of accepting absentee ballots in business meetings has caused conceivable disturbances and divisions in some instances, this assembly shall not accept absentee ballots.

### **SECTION 6 Parliamentary Procedure**

All business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. ANY rule can be dismissed by a two-thirds majority of the voting membership during the meeting in question.

## **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present, except as otherwise indicated herein. Articles III, XII and XIV of these bylaws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the active voting members present at any annual or special business meeting called for purpose of amending these bylaws. Article IV of these bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform with amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of Troy Community Church, Troy, Alabama. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Alabama District Council of the Assemblies of God if still affiliated.

## **ARTICLE VII ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The regular order of business for the Annual Meeting of the Assembly shall be as follows unless dismissed by a majority vote at the meeting in question:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Report of Committees/Departments
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of Officers
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VIII ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES**

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (I Corinthians 6: 1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this church and the church itself, or (2) between any member of this church and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other worker of this church, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third.

All arbitrators must be born-again, Spirit-filled believers who are members of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair his impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may on the basis of such disclosures disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected. The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than 30 days before the hearing.

Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request of a party and for good cause or upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least 5 days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators.

Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors. The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state which may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act. If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the church, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.