

1 **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS Of**
2 **Faith Outreach Center**
3 **Assembly of God Church Incorporated.**
4
5

6 **PREAMBLE**
7

8 For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place
9 for the worship of Almighty God, our heavenly Father;
10 to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like
11 precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored;
12 to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege
13 of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all
14 available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we,
15 whose names appear upon the assembly roster under the
16 above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local
17 assembly in fellowship with and part of the General
18 Council of the Assemblies of God, and adopt the
19 following articles of church order and submit ourselves
20 to be governed by them.
21

22 **CONSTITUTION**
23

24 **ARTICLE I. NAME**
25

26 The name of this Assembly shall be Faith Outreach
27 Center Assembly of God, Incorporated of Mount Joy,
28 Pennsylvania.
29

30 **ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES**
31

32 The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council
33 affiliated assembly shall be:
34

- 35 1. To Govern
36

37 This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and
38 to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of
39 the New Testament Scriptures and of the Pennsylvania-
40 Delaware District Council and the General Council of
41 the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically
42 include such matters as the calling of a pastor, the
43 election of the Board of Directors, and the discipline
44 of its members and the conducting of its own services
45 and church program.
46
47
48

49 2. To Acquire and Dispose

50

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

62

63 3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate

64

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

73

74 4. To Cooperate

75

76 This assembly shall cooperate with the District Council
77 and the General Council to extend the work and kingdom
78 of God throughout the world. It shall support the
79 missionary program as agreed upon by the Board of
80 Directors. It shall participate in District Council and
81 General Council sessions through its chosen delegates
82 and share in the support of the ministries of these
83 bodies.

84

85 5. To Recognize

86

87 This assembly shall recognize that the District Council
88 and the General Council have the authority and right to
89 approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to
90 disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to
91 withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed
92 necessary.

93

94

95

96

97 **ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION**

98

99 While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in
100 the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth,
101 this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full
102 cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious
103 faith, associated in the Pennsylvania-Delaware
104 District Council of the Assemblies of God, and the
105 General Council of the Assemblies of God, with
106 headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share
107 in the privileges and assume the responsibilities
108 enjoined by that affiliation. Officers of the District
109 Council and General Council shall be recognized and
110 respected by the pastor and members of this assembly.

111

112 As a member of the General Council, this assembly has
113 the right to request the assistance of both the General
114 Council and the District Council in dealing with any of
115 its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a
116 majority of the Board of Directors, or a petition
117 signed by at least one-third (1/3) of the active voting
118 members of the assembly. Only those members who have
119 regularly attended services of, and supported, this
120 assembly for a period of at least three consecutive
121 months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

122

123 By its affiliation, the assembly--directors, officers,
124 and members--agree to submit to the authority of and be
125 governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of both the
126 Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the
127 Assemblies of God and the General Council of the
128 Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter
129 amended.

130

131 **ARTICLE IV. - TENETS OF FAITH**

132

133 The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and
134 practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is
135 intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us
136 (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians
137 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this
138 statement is not inspired or contended for, but the
139 truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-
140 gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all
141 biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to
142 these fundamental doctrines.

143

144

145 1. The Scriptures Inspired

146

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

151

152 2. The One True God

153

154 The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally
155 self-existent "I AM," the creator of heaven and earth
156 and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed
157 Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and
158 association as Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Deut. 6:4;
159 Isa. 43:10-11; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22).

160

161 THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

162

163 (a) Terms Defined

164

165 The terms "Trinity" and "persons," as related to the
166 Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words
167 in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to
168 others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of
169 Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished
170 from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may
171 speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One
172 Lord, as a Trinity or as one being of three persons,
173 and still be absolutely Scriptural (examples: Matt.
174 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:16-17).

175

176 (b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

177

178 Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead
179 which He expressed in specific terms of relationship,
180 as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, but that distinction and
181 relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and
182 incomprehensible, because unexplained. (Luke 1:35; 1
183 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3-4).

184

185 (c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy
186 Ghost

187

188 Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which
189 constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there
190 is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the
191 Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son.
192 Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the

193 Begotten; and the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding from
194 the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three
195 persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there
196 is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one. (John
197 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zech. 14:9).

198

199 (d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

200

201 The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never
202 identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation;
203 nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as
204 to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father
205 is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not
206 from the Son, but the Son from the Father and the Son
207 proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and
208 authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either
209 exists or works separately or independently of the
210 others. (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 8:17-18).

211

212 (e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

213

214 The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name.
215 It is never applied, in the New Testament, either to
216 the Father or the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs
217 exclusively to the Son of God. (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John
218 3).

219

220 (f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

221

222 The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal
223 nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father,
224 but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of
225 Man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God
226 with us. (Matt.1:23; 1 John 4:2, 10,14; Rev. 1:13, 17).

227

228 (g) The Title, Son of God

229

230 Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in
231 the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that
232 the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and
233 the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore,
234 the title, Son of God belongs to the order of eternity
235 and the title, Son of Man to the order of time. (Matt.
236 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; 1:1-13).

237

238

239

240

241 (h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

242

243 Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of
244 Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son
245 of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or
246 because of the relation to the economy of redemption.
247 Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and
248 eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal
249 Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in
250 the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son,
251 and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is
252 come in the flesh. (2 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29,
253 49; 1 John 2:22-23; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:2).

254

255 (i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

256

257 The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by
258 Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of
259 the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and
260 powers having been made subject unto Him. And having
261 been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost
262 that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and
263 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God
264 the Father until the end, when the Son shall become
265 subject to the Father that God may be all in all. (Heb.
266 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Cor.
267 15:24-28).

268

269 (j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

270

271 Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment
272 unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in
273 heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an
274 unspeakable joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the
275 Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all
276 the honor and the glory contained in all the names and
277 titles of the Godhead (except those which express
278 relationship. See paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus
279 honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John
280 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians
281 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

282

283 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

284

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

287

288 (a) His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).

- 289 (b) His sinless life (Heb.7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
290
291 (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
292
293 (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3;
294 2 Cor. 5:21).
295
296 (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6;
297 Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4).
298
299 (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts
300 1:9,11; Acts 2:33, Phil 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3).
301

302 4. The Fall of Man

303

304 Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us
305 make man in our image, after our likeness." However,
306 man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby
307 incurred not only physical death but also spiritual
308 death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27;
309 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).
310

311 5. The Salvation of Man

312

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

315 (a) Conditions to Salvation

317

318 Salvation is received through repentance toward God and
319 faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of
320 regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being
321 justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir
322 of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke
323 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus
324 2:11; 3: 5-7).
325

326 (b) The Evidence of Salvation

327

328 The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness
329 of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to
330 all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness
331 (Eph.4:24; Titus 2:12).
332

333 6. The Ordinances of the Church

334

335 (a) Baptism in Water

336

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

344

345 (b) Holy Communion

346

347 The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements--bread
348 and the fruit of the vine--is the symbol expressing our
349 sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ
350 (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death
351 (1 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming
352 (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till
353 He come!"

354

355 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

356

357 All believers are entitled to and should ardently
358 expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father,
359 the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to
360 the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the
361 normal experience of all the Early Christian Church.
362 With it comes the enduement of power for life and
363 service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in
364 the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1
365 Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and
366 subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts
367 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism
368 in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an
369 overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts
370 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb.
371 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and
372 dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active
373 love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark
374 16:20).

375

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

378

379 The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed
380 by the initial physical sign of speaking with other
381 tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts
382 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the
383 same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Cor. 12:4-10,
384 28), but different in purpose and use.

385 9. Sanctification

386

387 Sanctification is an act of separation from that which
388 is evil, and a dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; 1
389 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life
390 of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."
391 (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are
392 able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy."
393 (1 Peter 1:15-16). Sanctification is realized in the
394 believer by recognizing his identification with Christ
395 in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning
396 daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering
397 every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy
398 Spirit. (Roman 6:1-11, 13; 8:1-2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil.
399 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:5).

400

401 10. The Church and Its Mission

402

403 The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God
404 through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the
405 fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer,
406 born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General
407 Assembly and Church of the First Born, which are
408 written in heaven (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

409

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

415

416 (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world
417 (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16: 15-16).

418

419 (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God
420 (1 Cor. 12:13).

421

422 (c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of
423 saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph.
424 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:28; 14:12).

425

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

430

431

432

433 This experience:

434

435 (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the
436 Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark
437 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Heb. 2:3, 4).

438

439 (b) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful
440 relationship with God (1 Cor. 2:10-16; 1 Cor. 12, 13
441 and 14).

442

443 (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the
444 Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and
445 ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying
446 of the Body of Christ (Gal. 5:22-26; 1 Cor. 14:12; Eph.
447 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

448

449 11. The Ministry

450

451 A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry
452 has been provided by our Lord for a threefold purpose
453 of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the
454 world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John
455 4:23,24), and (3) building a body of saints being
456 perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

457

458 12. Divine Healing

459

460 Divine Healing is an integral part of the gospel.
461 Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the
462 atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isa.
463 53:4-5; Matt. 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

464

465 13. The Blessed Hope

466

467 The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in
468 Christ and their translation together with those who
469 are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the
470 imminent and blessed hope of the church (1 Thess.
471 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51-52).

472

473 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

474

475 The second coming of Christ is the visible return of
476 Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one
477 thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; Revelation
478 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will
479 bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel
480 37:21-22; Zeph. 3:19-20; Romans 11:26-27) and the

481 establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm
482 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).

483

484 15. The Final Judgment

485

486 There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead
487 will be raised and judged according to their works.

488 Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life,

489 together with the devil and his angels, the beast and

490 the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting

491 punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and

492 brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark

493 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

494

495 16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

496

497 "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and
498 a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter

499 3:13; Revelation 21:22).

500

501 **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

502

503 The membership of this Church shall consist of those

504 who have met the requirements for membership as stated

505 in the Bylaws, have been received into membership, and

506 who voluntarily agree to be governed by its

507 Constitution and Bylaws.

508

509 **ARTICLE VI. - GOVERNMENT**

510

511 Section 1 - Officers

512

513 The Officers of the church shall consist of

514 President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer,

515 of which the pastor is President.

516

517 Section 2 - Board of Directors

518

519 The Board of Directors of the assembly shall include

520 the Pastor and Board of directors.

521

522 Section 3 - Board of Directors

523

524 The Board of Directors shall consist of an odd number,

525 such as three (3), five (5), or seven (7) members.

526

527

528

529 **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

530

531 Section 1 - Regular Church Services

532

533 The time and place of the regular church services shall
534 be determined by the Pastor and the Board of Directors.

535

536 Section 2 - Church Meetings

537

538 (a) The church year shall coincide with the calendar
539 year, beginning on January 1st and running through
540 December 31st of each year.

541

542 (b) There shall be an Annual Church Business
543 Meeting as determined by the Pastor and the Board of
544 Directors.

545

546 (c) Special Business Meetings may be called:

547

548 (1) By the Pastor

549

550 (2) By the Secretary of the Church upon the written
551 order of a majority of the Board of Directors.

552

553 (3) By petition having been signed by not
554 less than one-third of the active membership
555 of the assembly, the petition to be placed in
556 the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and
557 announcement made on two Sundays prior to the
558 date of meeting.

559

560 Section 3 - Notices

561

562 (a) Notice of Annual Business meeting or special Church
563 Meetings shall be published (bulletin, website, email,
564 and, or other means) not less than ten (10) days before
565 the date of the proposed meetings.

566

567 (b) Notice shall be given by announcement from
568 the pulpit on the two preceding Sundays.

569

570 Section 4 - Quorum

571

572 A quorum shall consist of 1/4 or more of the active
573 members of the church, and is required to be present to
574 hold Annual Business meeting or special business
575 meeting.

576

577 Section 5 - Board Meeting

578

579 The Board of Directors, with the Pastor, shall meet
580 monthly (or more often as needed) for the transaction
581 of routine business for the assembly, time and place to
582 be announced by the Pastor. This Board of Directors
583 shall meet for the discharge of their duties as
584 necessity may demand, upon the request of the Pastor.

585

586 Section 6 - Parliamentary Order

587

588 All business meetings of the church shall be governed
589 by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current
590 edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Revised*, in keeping
591 with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

592

593 **ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS**

594

595 This assembly shall create and maintain such
596 departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary
597 and advisable for the extension of its work. All such
598 departments and organizations shall be subordinate to
599 the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and
600 development of the whole. They shall be under the
601 general supervision of the Pastor and Board of
602 Directors, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member
603 of all committees or departments.

604

605 **ARTICLE IX. FINANCE**

606

607 Section 1. In General

608

609 All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be
610 provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes, and
611 offerings of the members and friends of the
612 organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the
613 assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon
614 by the Board of Directors and shall be administered by
615 the treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke
616 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

617

618 Section 2. Handling of Offerings

619

620 All offerings shall be counted by at least two
621 authorized congregants appointed by the pastor or
622 Treasurer before the funds are removed from the church
623 building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in
624 duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy

625 going to the treasurer and the other to the pastor. A
626 record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements
627 of the local assembly and of all individual giving. All
628 funds shall be deposited in accounts and/or invested
629 with the Senior Pastor's and Board of Director's (2/3
630 majority) approval.

631

632 Section 3. Pastoral Remuneration

633

634 A. Regular Remuneration

635

636 The pastor shall be remunerated for his services by a
637 salary or by other means agreed upon by the Board of
638 Directors and him. The Board of Directors shall review
639 the pastor's remuneration at least annually.

640

641 B. Reimbursement for Expenses

642

643 The pastor shall be given consideration by the Board of
644 Directors for expenses incurred by his attendance at
645 District Councils, General Councils, other District
646 functions, and other church related business by
647 reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to
648 help defray such expenses, according to the ability of
649 the church as determined by the Board of Directors.

650

651 C. Severance Pay

652

653 In the event a pastor is removed from office by a vote
654 of the active voting membership of the church, he shall
655 be given a minimum of sixty days regular or average
656 remuneration as severance pay, except in the case of
657 moral turpitude.

658

659 Section 4. Missions

660

661 Regular financial support to missionaries, missionary
662 projects and other persons and causes shall be decided
663 upon by the Board of Directors with the advice and
664 counsel of the Pastor.

665

666 **ARTICLE X. PROPERTY**

667

668 Section 1. Title

669

670 All property of the Church shall be deeded to the
671 Church and held in its name.

672

673 Section 2. Purchases, Sales ,and Leases of Property
674 All purchases of furnishings, equipment, and other
675 items of tangible personal property, exceeding 15% of
676 total net worth of the Church in cost, and all
677 purchases and sales of real property shall be
678 authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the
679 voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or
680 special meeting of the assembly.

681

682 **ARTICLE XI. - AMENDMENTS**

683

684 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote
685 of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any
686 regular or special meeting called for that purpose,
687 provided due notice of such proposed change shall have
688 been made at all the services on at least two
689 consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of
690 such meeting. Any proposed amendment(s) must be
691 submitted to the Board of Directors, in writing, at
692 least two months prior to the announced business
693 meeting. It shall be understood that this article does
694 not apply to the ARTICLE IV. Tenets of Faith, which
695 stands regardless of majority.

696

697

BY-LAWS

698

699 **ARTICLE I. DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

700

701 Section 1. Pastor.

702

703 (a) Qualifications

704

705 The Pastor shall be a minister of the General
706 Council of the Assemblies of God in good
707 standing and shall be known to be in accord
708 with the Constitution and Bylaws of that body
709 and those of the local Church.

710

711 (b) Duties

712

713 (1) The Pastor is designated in Scripture to have the
714 Spiritual oversight of the congregation under the
715 leadership of our Lord and the guidance of the Holy
716 Spirit. He is referred to under the title
717 "Pastor"(Ephesians 4:11), "Overseer" (Acts 20:28), and
718 "Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:1,2).

719

720 (2) The Pastor shall be chairman of the Board of
721 Directors and preside over all Church Business
722 Meetings.

723
724 (3) He shall be an ex-officio member of all other
725 boards and committees, and he shall be the general
726 supervisor of all activities of the Church.

727
728 (4) The Pastor shall be responsible for all spiritual
729 service, and, with the Board of Directors, shall have
730 oversight in arranging for special services,
731 conventions, etc. No person shall be invited to speak
732 or preach in the Church unless by understanding of and
733 in full harmony with the Pastor's wishes. The Pastor
734 shall have the oversight of all visitation work and may
735 appoint others to assist him in this ministry.

736
737 (c) Manner of Election
738 The Pastor shall be elected to office by a two-thirds
739 (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at any
740 regular or special Church Business Meeting.

741
742 (d) Term of Office
743 The term of the Pastor's office shall be for an
744 indefinite period; term to expire upon thirty (30) days
745 notice given either by the resignation of the Pastor or
746 by action of the Church.

747
748 Section 2 - Other Pastors, Ministers and Employees
749 All associate Pastors and any Church employees shall be
750 appointed by the Pastor with the approval of the Board
751 of Directors.

752
753 Section 3. The Board of Directors.

754
755 (a) Qualifications
756 They shall be members of good standing, at least
757 twenty-five (25) years of age, and shall have been a
758 member of Faith Outreach Center Assembly of God Church,
759 Incorporated for at least one (1) year prior to their
760 election. They shall support the general fund with
761 their tithes, and the church with their faithful
762 attendance, giving of their time and talents. They
763 shall have theological agreement with the tenets of
764 faith. Their lives should have consistent evidence of
765 being led by the Spirit.

766
767 (b) Manner of Election and Term of Office

768 (1) A stagger system will be instituted at the first
769 Board Meeting following the adoption of this
770 Constitution and By-Laws. In succeeding years,
771 elections shall be held in accordance with those
772 offices declared vacant. (Example: year 1 - 2 offices;
773 year 2 - 3 offices; year 3 - 2 offices)
774

775 (2) The Board of Directors shall be elected by a
776 majority vote at the Annual Church Business Meeting.
777 The term of office shall be three (3) years.
778 Consecutive three (3) year terms may be served
779 according to majority vote at Annual Business meeting.
780

781 (3) The Board of Directors shall be at least 3 persons
782 in number. The Board of Directors must always have an
783 odd number of members.
784

785 (c) Duties
786

787 (1) They shall be the custodian of all the property of
788 the Church, and shall be responsible, with the Pastor,
789 for maintenance and cleanliness of the same.
790

791 (2) They shall have general oversight of the business
792 proceedings of the entire church. They shall supply
793 temporary officers to fill vacancies and shall serve as
794 the nominating committee for Pastor.
795

796 (3) A majority present at any meeting of the Board of
797 Directors shall constitute a quorum, provided all the
798 members have been notified to be present. In the event
799 the Church is temporarily without a Pastor, or the
800 Pastor is unable to be present, with the Pastor's
801 approval, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to
802 transact business for the Church.
803

804 Section 4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the
805 official meetings of the Board of Directors and of the
806 annual and special business meetings of the Church.
807 they shall keep a record of the membership of the
808 Church and perform any other clerical work necessary to
809 the proper discharge of their duties. They shall be the
810 custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession
811 of the corporate seal (where the Church is
812 incorporated).
813
814
815

816 Section 5. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with the
817 finances of the Church which may be committed to
818 them. They shall deposit all funds in a responsible
819 Bank in the name of the Church, and shall disburse of
820 the same as authorized by the Pastor and the Board of
821 Directors. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized account
822 of the receipts and disbursements. Preparation and
823 filing of financial related documents to government
824 agencies or to meet regulations. Preparation of
825 operating and capital budget for approval of the Board
826 of Directors. Oversight of the administration of the
827 budget by departments and committees. Preparation of
828 financial reports for the Board or Directors and the
829 Annual Business Meeting.

830
831 Section 6. The Vice President shall be appointed by the
832 pastor from the elected Board of Directors. They shall
833 act as the president in the event that the president is
834 not able to preside over a board meeting or the church
835 has a vacant pastorate. In the event of a vacancy in
836 the pastorate the Vice President shall assume all the
837 duties of President until a new pastor is elected.

838
839 **ARTICLE II. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

840
841 Section 1. The Pastor is elected to serve for an
842 indefinite period of time. He shall be nominated by the
843 Board of Directors. Election shall be by secret ballot
844 at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a
845 special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds
846 majority of all votes cast shall be required to
847 constitute an election.

848
849 Section 2. At the first meeting of the Board of
850 Directors following the Annual Business Meeting, the
851 Board of Directors shall elect a Secretary and
852 Treasurer (from among the members of the same Board).

853
854 Section 3. A Nominating Committee of five active
855 members shall be chosen by the Pastor and ratified by
856 the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall
857 consist of two (2) members from the Board of Directors,
858 two (2) at-large members from the congregation and the
859 Pastor who shall serve as the chairman. A person
860 becomes a nominee from the Nominating Committee when
861 they appear on at least three (3) of the five (5)
862 voting members' ballots. It shall be the duty of the
863 Nominating Committee to select nominees for the offices

864 to be voted upon at the annual church business meeting.
865 Notice of the nominees' names shall be posted and
866 available to all members two Sundays prior to the
867 business meeting.

868
869 Section 4. Vacancies

870
871 A. The Pastorate.

872
873 If there are serious charges brought against the pastor
874 or the pastor's ministry ceases to be effective, or no
875 provision has been made for the termination of his
876 ministry, power is vested in the Board of Directors
877 with 2/3 vote to ask for the resignation of the Pastor
878 at any of its official board meetings. If such
879 resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be
880 considered vacant until the action of the Board of
881 Directors has been confirmed by a majority vote of the
882 congregation at a meeting called for that purpose, such
883 meeting to be presided over by the District Officiary.
884 When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply
885 shall be arranged for by the Board of Directors until a
886 pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1. In
887 the case of a pastor's removal from office a report of
888 such action shall be made to the District Council
889 office.

890
891 B. Other Officers.

892
893 (a) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a
894 majority of the membership of the Board of Directors at
895 any regular or special Board meeting.

896
897 (b) Ground for such action shall be:

- 898
899 1. Unscriptural conduct.
900 2. Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith.
901 3. Incompetence in office.
902 4. For any good and sufficient cause.

903
904
905 **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

906
907 Section 1 - Standard of Membership

908
909 The Standard of membership of this Church shall be:
910

- 911 (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration
912 (the new birth) (John 1:12,13;3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).
913
914 (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans
915 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13,14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2,16; 1
916 John 1:6,7.
917
918 (c) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support
919 of the Church according to his or her ability.
920
921 (d) At least eighteen (18) years of age.

922
923 Section 2 - Active Membership

924
925 All those who have met the requirements of membership
926 together with those names which have been added from
927 time to time, shall constitute the legal voting
928 membership of the Church, provided they regularly
929 attend and take part in the services, that they are
930 living consistent Christian lives, and that they
931 contribute regularly to its financial support.
932

933 Section 3 - Inactive Membership

934
935 Enrolled members shall be considered inactive members
936 for any of the following reasons:

- 937
938 (a) Being absent from the services of the Church for a
939 period of three consecutive months or more, without
940 good cause.
941
942 (b) Ceasing to contribute of their means to its
943 support.
944
945 (c) Being out of harmony with its teachings or its
946 ministries. Inactive members shall lose their voting
947 privileges until they are restored to the fellowship by
948 the definite action of the Church through its elected
949 officials (Board of Directors).

950
951 Section 4 - Waiver of Legal Action Rights

952
953 Notwithstanding the provisions herein before contained,
954 certificates of membership in the Church shall be
955 issued upon the condition that suspension of the member
956 and withdrawal of membership certificate in the manner
957 herein provided shall not give the suspended member
958 cause for legal action against the Pastor or any member

959 taking part in the suspension proceedings; and the
960 acceptance of a certificate of membership or fellowship
961 in this local Church shall be evidence of a waiver by
962 the member of all rights of action, causes of action
963 and all claims and demands against this local Church or
964 any member or officer or the General Council of the
965 Assemblies of God suspension proceedings and withdrawal
966 of the certificate of membership or fellowship in this
967 local Church under the foregoing provision.

968

969 Section 5 - Reception of Members

970

971 Persons who have attended the Church at least six months
972 and desire to become active members of the Church shall
973 fill out the application form provided by the Church.
974 Following the public reception of a member that
975 individual shall be eligible to vote in any business
976 meeting. A minimum of six months shall pass before the
977 individual is eligible to hold an elected office. The
978 Pastor and the Board of Directors shall review the
979 application for approval. (see Section 1 of this
980 Article).

981

982 Section 6 - Ex-Officio Membership of Pastoral,
983 Professional Staff, and Spouses

984

985 The pastoral/professional staff of this church and
986 their respective spouses shall by virtue of their
987 position be deemed to be active voting members of this
988 church. Such ex-officio church membership terminates
989 with termination from the respective position.

990

991 Section 7 - Discipline

992

993 (a) The Pastor with counsel from the Board of Directors
994 is authorized to discipline any member of the church
995 for any of the reasons listed in Section 3 of this
996 Article.

997

998 (b) Should any differences arise between members, the
999 aggrieved shall follow, in a tender spirit, the rules
1000 given by our Lord, as recorded in Matthew 18:15-17, 35.

1001

1002 (c) If this does not lead to restoration of fellowship
1003 a complaint shall be written, signed, and filed with
1004 the Pastor. The Board of Directors will seek to settle
1005 the matter according to the Scriptures (Matthew 18:15-
1006 17; Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13).

1007 Section 8 - Membership Transfer

1008

1009 Any person having been a member of another Assemblies
1010 of God Church who shall desire to be affiliated with
1011 this Church shall be required to fill out an
1012 application for transferred membership offered by this
1013 Church. A voting member in good standing who desires to
1014 transfer his membership to another congregation may
1015 apply to the Board of Directors for a Letter of
1016 Transfer. The Letter of Transfer shall be signed by the
1017 Pastor and Church Secretary.

1018

1019 Section 9 Revision of Roster

1020

1021 The Senior Pastor and the Board of Directors shall be
1022 authorized to revise the membership roll monthly and to
1023 remove from the list of active members all names of
1024 those who have become deceased, those who have
1025 withdrawn, those who have transferred their membership,
1026 those who have been terminated, those who have fallen
1027 below the standard of membership, or those who have
1028 willfully absented themselves from the regular services
1029 of the church for a period of three (3) consecutive
1030 months without good cause, except for physical
1031 disability.

1032

1033 Section 10 - Membership Removal and Reinstatement

1034

1035 The Board of Directors shall have the right to revise
1036 /remove from active membership any member who shall
1037 willfully and without good cause absent himself from
1038 the regular services of the church for a period of
1039 three (3) consecutive months except for physical
1040 disability, or who shall cease to contribute
1041 financially, or who shall be under charges for
1042 misconduct, or who may have made a doctrinal departure
1043 from the Tenets of Faith held by this Church, or who
1044 shall have fallen below the standard of membership as
1045 provided in Article I, Section 1 of the Bylaws.

1046

1047 If the former member shall desire reinstatement, the
1048 former member shall petition the Board of Directors to
1049 have his name returned to the active list. Upon
1050 receiving the request, the Board of Directors shall
1051 render a decision. If the petition is granted, the
1052 member may resume voting privileges after meeting with
1053 the pastor followed by a two (2) month period of active
1054 membership.

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ARTICLE IV - DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The Church shall hereby provide any departments or committees as needed to fulfill the vision and mission of this church. All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the Church and shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor, and the Pastoral Staff, and the Board of directors. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments of this Church.

ARTICLE V - PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the Church name.

Section 2. No real or chattel property of the Church (in excess of 15% of the total net worth of the church) shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated by the Board of Directors without authorization by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present.

Section 3. The Pastor and Vice President of the Church Board of Directors shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that it has been dully authorized by the vote of the church. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 4. In case the Church shall be divided by doctrinal views, or for another cause, the members holding to the original tenets of faith, standards and practices, as set forth in this constitution, regardless of majority, shall retain title to the property.

Section 5. DISSOLUTION: In the event that this Church ceases to function as a Church body, then the said property, real or chattel shall revert to the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, whose headquarters are located at Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion. In the event of sale of the property by the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the

1103 Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived there from
1104 shall be used by the District Council in the
1105 furtherance of the gospel of Christ. This ARTICLE V.
1106 PROPERTY RIGHTS SECTION 5, DISSOLUTION is never to be
1107 amended without the Pennsylvania-Delaware District of
1108 the General Council of the Assemblies of God being
1109 represented by its District Superintendent and/or its
1110 Secretary-Treasurer and the Sectional Presbyter, at
1111 which time a full hearing must be given and the vote be
1112 taken before the membership of the Assembly at a duly
1113 announced business meeting.

1114

1115 **ARTICLE VI - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1116

1117 The regular order of business for the Annual Meeting of
1118 the Church shall be as follows:

1119

- 1120 1. Devotional
- 1121 2. Reading of the Pastor's Report
- 1122 3. Reading of the minutes by the Secretary
- 1123 4. Report of the Treasurer
- 1124 5. Report of Committees
- 1125 6. Unfinished Business
- 1126 7. Election of Officers
- 1127 8. New Business
- 1128 9. Adjournment

1129

1130 **ARTICLE VII - ADMENDMENTS**

1131

1132 The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special
1133 business meeting of the assembly by a two-thirds vote
1134 of the membership present, except for ARTICLE V,
1135 Section 5 of these Bylaws.