

**BYLAWS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

HISTORICAL

On March 1, 1918, the ministers of Colorado holding credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, assembled at Colorado Springs to organize a State Council. The council opened with mighty volume of prayer and praise.

The chairman then made the following statement:

"Brethren, the object of this meeting is to organize a State Council of the ministers for closer fellowship; for the examining, encouraging and licensing of persons who feel they are called of God to the ministry; for the safeguarding of our field from those who are unworthy; and for the evangelizing of new fields."

The preamble and resolution of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God was then read and unanimously adopted.

A resolution was passed at the mid-winter convention March 11, 1926, at Denver, Colorado to embrace the virgin states of Wyoming and Utah in the Colorado District, with the approval of the General Council. A letter of endorsement from the General Council was received.

On August 24, 1926, at the annual convention in Loveland, Colorado, a motion was made and carried to adopt the name "The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God", the District consisting of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah.

On May 3, 1949 a motion was made and carried that, since the State of Wyoming's request for privilege to become a District of its own was granted that the word "Wyoming" be deleted from ARTICLE II, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution, making the territory of The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God to be Colorado and Utah.

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means in our particular district, so that the results of our efforts may be conserved and assemblies established and developed in general unity, and cooperative fellowship along the lines of our distinctive testimony; and for the further purpose of cooperation with all other like districts in the work of the General Council at home and abroad; we who are members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereby associate ourselves as The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God, and agree to be governed by the following Bylaws.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporate body shall be called "THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD".

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

Section 1. States.

The Rocky Mountain District includes Colorado and Utah.

Section 2. Sections.

Sections and their boundary lines, and any changes therein shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery, working in cooperation with the sections affected.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP

Section 1. General Council.

The Rocky Mountain District 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 that shall govern this District Council.

Section 2. Churches.

Churches which are in fellowship with the District, shall recognize and be subject to the District Council as set forth in Article XI of the General Council Constitution.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

The Rocky Mountain District shall stand for the Holy Scriptures as the all sufficient rule of faith and practice; and adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council.

ARTICLE V. PREROGATIVES

In connection with its purpose to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, at home and abroad by all available means, the Rocky Mountain District Council shall have the right to:

- a. Supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, in accordance with the right conferred by Article X of the General Council Bylaws.
- b. Examine and recommend for certification, license and ordination those individuals who have met the requirements of the General Council.
- c. Elect officers, appoint committees, arrange for its own meetings and govern itself. It shall be subordinate to the General Council and amenable thereto in all matters of doctrine and the conduct of ministers who shall have the District endorsement.
- d. Establish churches and provide for their development. It shall also have the right to establish and maintain such departments and institutions for the fellowship as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel within its borders.

- e. Incidental to or in connection with its purpose, it shall have the right to receive property properly deeded to it, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property real or chattel, as may be needed.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Rocky Mountain District Council shall consist of:

- a. All ministers of the Gospel holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council, and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain District Council.
- b. Senior retired ministers having their residence within the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain District, or if living outside those boundaries choosing to be affiliated with the Rocky Mountain District Council.
- c. Ministers affiliated with the Rocky Mountain District Council but presently associated with the national headquarters of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or any of the colleges, or Bible schools or institutes who retain their membership in the Rocky Mountain District Council.
- d. The individuals granted a local church credential do not have the rights, privileges, or responsibilities as official members of the Rocky Mountain District.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

- a. **Officers and Terms of Office.** The officers shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Secretary-Treasurer, together with three (3) Field Executive Presbyters. Their terms of office shall begin one month after the vote of election. The term of each Executive Officer shall continue for three years or until a successor qualifies.
- b. **Scope of Authority** (Refer Article III - Articles of Incorporation)
 - (1) **Superintendent:**
 - (a) Shall be the President of the Corporation.
 - (b) Shall supervise the work of the District.
 - (c) Shall preside at the meetings of the District Council and the District Presbytery.
 - (d) Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - (e) Shall serve as President/Chairman of the board of District Council Churches.
 - (2) **Assistant Superintendent**
 - (a) Shall be the Vice-President of the Corporation.
 - (b) Shall assist the Superintendent in the work of the District.
 - (c) Shall assume responsibilities of the Superintendent's office if the Superintendent is unable to serve.

(3) Secretary-Treasurer

- (a) Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (b) Shall serve as the Secretary of the Corporation.
- (c) Shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the Council.
- (d) Shall be the custodian of the official minutes for the District Council, Executive and District Presbytery meetings.
- (e) Shall be the Secretary for all District Churches.
- (f) Shall serve as the Treasurer of the Corporation.
- (g) Shall receive and record all offerings and moneys to be used for the work of the District Council and to keep the same on deposit in FDIC insured or equivalent institutions designated by the District Presbytery.
- (h) Shall disperse the money of the District in accordance with the budget and policies established by the District Presbytery.
- (i) Shall provide for an annual audit of the District books by competent auditors.
- (j) Shall perform other functions under the supervision of the District Superintendent or such as may be directed by the District Council or the District Presbytery.

(4) Field Executive Presbyters

- (a) Shall with the addition of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer constitute the Executive Presbytery.
- (b) Shall have oversight of all departments.
- (c) Shall conduct necessary business of the Corporation between the sessions of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Board of Directors

The District Presbytery shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Secretary-Treasurer, Field Executive Presbyters, and Sectional Presbyters. They shall:

- a. Constitute a Board of Directors performing such functions as are usual and customary in use of the term.
- b. Be the official budget and policy making body of the District Council.
- c. Conduct necessary business of the Corporation between the sessions of the District Council.
- d. Be the Credentials Committee and shall be empowered to act in all matters pertaining to ministerial relationships.
- e. Be empowered to act in all matters which pertain to the proper functioning of departments and institutions in the District.
- f. Determine the salaries and allowances of all officers of the District.
- g. Have the authority to act in behalf of The Rocky Mountain District Council in acquiring or disposing of District owned properties. Such transactions shall require a two-thirds majority vote in the District Presbytery.
- h. Be individually amenable to the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Sectional Officers

- a. **Sectional Presbyter.** Each geographical section shall elect a Presbyter who shall:

- (1) Serve on request and in cooperation with the District Superintendent in conducting official business within the section.
 - (2) Arrange for and preside at sectional meetings.
 - (3) Serve on the Board of District Council Churches.
 - (4) Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the District Policy and Procedure Manual.
 - (5) Be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.
- b. **Sectional Committee.** Two individuals from each geographical section along with the Presbyter shall constitute the Sectional Committee. They shall:
- (1) Assist the Presbyter in his assigned duties.
 - (2) Upon request of the Credentials Committee assist in the evaluation of applicants for ministerial credentials.
 - (3) Serve on the Board of District Council Churches.
- c. **Terms of Office**
- (1) Presbyters shall serve a three (3) year term.
 - (2) Committeepersons shall serve a three (3) year term with their presbyter.
- d. **Qualifications**
- (1) Presbyters shall be ordained ministers within their geographical section.
 - (2) Committeepersons shall be an ordained or licensed minister resident within their geographical section.

Section 4. General Council Presbytery Representatives.

The General Council Presbytery representatives of the Rocky Mountain District Council shall consist of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer, one of whom shall be an Ordained pastor of a church located in the District.

Section 5. Duties of Officers.

Duties of all officers shall be described in the Policy and Procedures Manuals.

Section 6. Qualification

Only those who are Ordained, and are giving full time to the ministry, except where otherwise provided for, and have been resident members of the District at least one (1) full year immediately prior to the election shall be eligible for election to any district office.

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Executive Officers

- a. **Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.** Nominees shall be ordained ministers, resident within the District. All candidates shall be nominated by secret ballot. All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received two-thirds majority of votes, provided however, that if no such majority has been obtained by the first three ballots taken, that the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast

shall be nominees to be further voted upon and all other names shall be eliminated. In the event any nominee, at the time of the elective process, receives no votes, his name shall be automatically eliminated from the nominee slate.

- b. **Secretary-Treasurer.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected in the following manner. The District Presbytery serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making investigation into the qualifications and general fitness of available candidates and shall select one or more names to be presented to the District Council in session for election. Suggested nominations may be made to the District Presbytery through the respective Sectional Presbyter for consideration at the January Presbyters meeting. All nominees receiving two (2) votes or more, shall be added to the electoral ballot. A two-thirds vote of the District Council shall be required for election.
- c. **Field Executive Presbyters.** The selection process for Field Executive Presbyters shall be based on geographical region. One name for the position of Field Executive Presbyter may be nominated by each section during the Sectional Council Tour. Nominees shall be resident ordained ministers of that geographical region. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. Those receiving a simple majority shall be presented to the next District Council for consideration as Field Executive Presbyter from their geographical region. The entire voting constituency of the District Council shall vote on all the Field Executive Presbyters by geographical regions. The geographical regions shall include sections as follows:

Eastern Slope of Colorado: Denver Metro North, Denver Metro South, Northern, Northeast, Pikes Peak, Southern, and Southeast

Western Slope of Colorado: San Juan, West Central, Northwest and Mountain

Utah: Northern and Southern

The names of nominees for Field Executive Presbyter shall be ratified first by the District Presbytery. If any region should not have any names to present to the District Council, the District Presbytery shall present at least one qualified name for consideration at District Council. A two-thirds vote of the District Council shall be required for election.

Section 2. Sectional Officers

- a. **Presbyter and Committee.** Each section at the annual Sectional Council shall nominate and elect by secret ballot a Sectional Presbyter and two (2) Sectional Committeemen. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election. One third of the presbyters shall be elected each year. Sectional Presbyters shall be ratified first by a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery and then by a two-thirds vote of the District Council in session.
- b. **Sectional Department Representatives.** Representatives of various departments shall be appointed by the Sectional Committee and the Executive Presbyter in consultation with the respective District Department Directors.

No layperson shall be appointed to any area of responsibility until he/she shall have been approved by his or her pastor.

Section 3. Vacancies

- a. Any vacancy of an Executive Office, with the exception of Superintendent, that occurs more than ninety (90) days before a District Council, shall be filled by the District Presbytery, through appointment or special meeting.
- b. Any vacancy of the office of Superintendent that occurs more than ninety (90) days before a District Council, shall be filled through election at a “special meeting” to fill the unexpired term.
- c. All vacancies for Sectional Presbyters shall be filled through election at a special called Sectional Council conducted by a representative of the Executive Presbytery. The election shall be for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX. DISTRICT MEETINGS

Section 1. Council Sessions

- a. The District Council shall meet annually, for a minimum of two days, time and place to be announced by the Executive Presbytery. The announcement shall be published not later than three (3) months prior to the meeting.
- b. Special sessions may be called to meet any emergency that may arise within the District. Such calls shall be issued by the Secretary-Treasurer after the emergency has been fully considered and passed upon by a majority vote of the District Presbytery.
- c. The right of initiative in the calling of a special session may 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 20 percent of the Ordained ministers of the District may be considered sufficient reason for such a call, said statement to be filed with the District Presbytery, who shall issue the call, setting the time and place for the meeting.
- d. Sectional Councils shall be held on an annual basis to elect officers and conduct necessary business. Time and place shall be announced by the Executive Presbytery no later than three (3) months prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

- a. **District Council.** Voting constituency at District Councils shall consist of registered ordained and licensed ministers, department heads and delegates.
- b. **Sectional Council.** Voting constituency shall include all registered ordained and licensed ministers and delegates residing within the respective section.

ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS

- a. The Rocky Mountain District Council shall establish such departments as deemed necessary.
- b. Departmental Directors shall be appointed by the District Presbytery.
- c. The duties of the Departmental Directors shall conform to the General Council recommendations.
- d. Departmental Directors shall work in conjunction with and shall be amenable the District Superintendent and the Executive Presbytery.
- e. District Department Directors will be accorded a special status at District Council and shall be given the privilege of debate and vote on the council floor.
- f. Each department shall be governed by policies and procedures approved by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES

- a. The District Council in session or the District Presbytery shall establish such committees as deemed necessary.
- b. Committees shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.
- c. Committees shall work in conjunction with and shall be amenable to the District Superintendent and District Presbytery.
- d. The duties and terms of office of the Committees shall be defined by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XII. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Prerogatives

- a. All Pentecostal believers, associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies, desiring to cooperate with principles, doctrines, and faith of The District and General Councils of the Assemblies of God, and accepting their full share of responsibility for the maintaining of Scriptural order in the local body shall have the right of recognition by the District Council.
- b. Local assemblies shall be set in order by the District Officers and shall be amenable to the district in doctrine, in conduct, and all other matters which affect the peace and harmony of the fellowship.
- c. Local assemblies shall have a standard of membership that meets the standards for membership set forth by the General Council.
- d. Local assemblies shall support the district organization, and shall be entitled to representation at the District and Sectional Councils through a properly accredited delegate.
- e. 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 2. Non Affiliated Churches

Each church desiring to affiliate with the District shall secure the services of the sectional committee. A suggested Bylaws and other pertinent documents for local assemblies shall be completed by the requesting body in cooperation with the District Secretary, and shall be approved by the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Setting Church in Order

A District Council church desiring recognition as a General Council church shall secure the services of the Sectional Committee. Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and other documents shall be completed in cooperation with the District Secretary. Approval of a church shall be made first by the Sectional Committee, then the District Presbytery.

Section 4. Privileges and Provisions

a. General Council Churches

- (1) Each local assembly has the right of self-government, under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local church. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its Bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property either through trustees or its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The local assembly shall recognize that the District Council has the right to approve Scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct.
- (2) A local congregation may yield their sovereign rights to the District. This privilege granted to any local body will be treated as a sacred trust, and relinquished by the District Presbytery at a time favorable to both church and District. The church and pastor alike will be under direct supervision, until sovereignty is restored.
- (3) If the minimal requirements as stated in the General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI, Section 1 have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained. The local church shall remain in a District Council status until sufficient growth and maturity has been demonstrated to qualify for General Council status. An application for the same shall be filed with the District Secretary-Treasurer and approved by the District Presbytery.

b. District Council Churches

- (1) **Supervision.** District Council Churches shall be recognized and held under supervision of the Official Board, which shall provide pastoral care and appoint necessary officers, until such time as the assembly gives evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant full recognition of General Council status. Such assemblies shall be recognized as having a definite

standing in the Assemblies of God Fellowship and may be granted letters of recognition by the District at the discretion of the District Presbytery.

- (2) **Official Board.** The Official Board shall be the District Superintendent, as President and Chairman, the District Secretary-Treasurer, as Legal Secretary, the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Committeemen, together with the Pastor.
- (3) **Advisory Board.** The Advisory Board shall be the Pastor and two qualified laymen from the local assembly.

c. Parent Affiliated Churches

(1) **Listing and Recognition of Parent Affiliated Churches.**

(a) A General Council Church when opening a Parent Affiliated Church shall inform the district leadership that the Parent Affiliated Church is opening and the Parent Affiliated Church shall be listed on district council and General Council records as a Parent Affiliated Church.

(b) A District Council Church shall apply for approval from their official board to plant a Parent Affiliated Church. Upon approval the Parent Affiliated Church shall be listed on District Council and General Council records as a Parent Affiliated Church.

(2) **Recognition of a Parent Affiliated Church as District Council or General Council affiliated.**

Upon mutual agreement of the parent church, the Parent Affiliated Church, and the District Council - in accordance with District Council and General Council constitutional and bylaw procedures - the Parent Affiliated Church may be recognized as a District Council or General Council affiliated assembly. At such time of recognition, the governance of the Parent Affiliated Church shall be transferred from the parent church to the newly recognized General Council assembly or the District Council in the case of a newly recognized District Council assembly.

Section 5. Intervention of District In To General Council Churches

a. Intervention Guidelines

While the right of a local General Council Church to self-government is a basic General Council privilege, it is also recognized that the district has a responsibility to the assembly. Some of the circumstances, which require intervention by the District Executive Presbyter, are as follows:

- (1) Division resulting in disruption.
- (2) Assumption of unscriptural authority by the pastor or board.
- (3) Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.
- (4) Deviation or departure from the Assemblies of God principles and practices.
- (5) Attempt to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God Fellowship.
- (6) Inability of pastor and board to resolve problems of administrative or unscriptural conduct.

- (7) The membership of an assembly falling below twenty (20) active voting members; or, absence of persons qualified to serve as board members.

b. Organizational Assistance.

The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members. When district officers receive such requests, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

c. Preservation of Affiliation

In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district.

ARTICLE XIII. FINANCES

Section 1. General Provisions

- a. Financial funds and accounts for the District shall be established and governed by budget and policies of the District Presbytery.
- b. Financial reports shall be submitted to the District council in session and to regular meetings of the District Presbytery.
- c. An annual audit of District financial records shall be made in accordance with policies of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Tithing

- a. All Ministers (Ordained-Licensed-Certified Minister) are required to support the District Council monthly with *10% of their ministerial income (a minimum of salary plus housing allowance)*.

- b. All Ministers engaged in secular work are required to support the District Council as prescribed in paragraph a. and/or remit a minimum of \$30 per month for Certified Ministers; \$45 per month for Licensed Ministers and \$60 per month for Ordained Ministers.
- c. All Ministers not receiving ministry or secular income are required to remit to the District Council an annual renewal fee (paid monthly) equal to the dues required by The General Council of the Assemblies of God as stated in their Bylaws.
- d. "Senior-Retired" ministers are exempt from the foregoing obligations, and are placed honorably on a free-will offering basis.
- e. U.S. and World missionaries are exempt from the foregoing obligations, and are required to follow guidelines established by the AG U.S. Missions and AG World Missions.
- f. Tithes and offerings and other gifts shall not be considered as investments in the Corporation, nor shares of the same, but shall, in all cases, be considered voluntary gifts and/or dues, without attachment or remuneration.

ARTICLE XIV. RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

In order to expedite the work of the Council in session and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the meetings shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in the "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised". All rules of government shall be in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 2. Order of Business

The recommended order of the business of the Council meetings shall be:

- 1. All business sessions of the Council shall begin with prayer.
- 2. Previous minutes
- 3. Reports of Officers, Departments and Committees
- 4. Special Orders
- 5. Unfinished Business
- 6. New Business
- 7. Election of Officers
- 8. Adjournment

Section 3. Reports

All annual reports are to be prepared and distributed in printed form, and the oral reading of the same be omitted except upon the request of the council body.

Section 4. Resolutions

Any resolution brought to the floor of the Council in session, by the Resolution Committee, shall be written out and signed by its sponsor who shall be the first to defend it.

Section 5. Suspension of Rules

There can be no suspension of the Bylaws.

Section 6. Headings and Titles

Headings and titles found in this document are for reference only.

Section 7. Quorum

No meetings or record of any regular or special business meeting of the following bodies, shall be recognized as official without a quorum present.

- (a) **District and Sectional Councils.** All registered members present and voting shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) **District Presbytery.** A majority of the Executive Presbyters and a majority of the District Presbyters present and voting in any meeting of the District Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.
- (c) **Executive Presbytery.** A majority of the Executive Presbytery present at any Executive Presbytery meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposal

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the District Presbytery first for consideration, and then mailed to each member of the District Council at least two (2) months prior to the time of meeting.

Section 2. Required Vote

Two-thirds majority vote of all registered members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

Section 3. General Council Authority

Because the District Council derives its right to exist, and its authority to govern itself from the General Council, it would seem unwise to adopt bylaw articles that elaborate upon provisions already set forth by the General Council; but rather adopt a bylaw order based on that of the General Council, dealing with District prerogatives.

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