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Bylaws

For

Christian Life Assembly of God Church
Willimantic, CT

Adopted 25 March 2012

Last Revised 27 January 2017

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43 BYLAWS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE ASSEMBLY

44
45 Adopted this 25th day of March, 2012

46
47 Preamble

48
49 For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our
50 Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy
51 Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility
52 and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means, both at home and
53 in foreign lands; we, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local
54 assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God Church,
55 and the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God Church (a.k.a. Southern
56 New England Ministry Network); and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order
57 and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

58
59 ARTICLE I. NAME

60
61 The name of this assembly shall be Christian Life Assembly of God Church

62
63 ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

64
65 The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council affiliated assembly shall be:

66
67 1. To Govern

68 This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the
69 standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Southern New England District Council and the
70 General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the
71 calling of a pastor, the election of the church board (also known as the official board), and the
72 discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

73
74 2. To Acquire and Dispose

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

81
82 3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate

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

88
89 4. To Cooperate

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

94
95 5. To Recognize

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

100
101
102
103 ARTICLE III. 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 precious faith, associated in the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the 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 (30%) of the active 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 Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

The name Christian Life Assembly may be used in non-legal matters. From time to time the assembly may be referred to as Christian Life Church, but without compromise to its affiliation with General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

- a. Terms Defined

The terms trinity and persons, as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

- b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

- c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zechariah 14:9)
- d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).
- e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ
The appellation Lord Jesus Christ is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).
- f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us
The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).
- g. The Title, Son of God
Since the name Immanuel embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the order of eternity, and the title Son of Man to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).
- h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ
Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).
- i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord
The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having

219 been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent
220 the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that
221 Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall
222 become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22;
223 Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

224
225 j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

226 Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only
227 the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an
228 unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity,
229 and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of
230 the Godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d),
231 and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8;
232 Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

233
234 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

236
237 a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).

238
239 b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).

240
241 c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

242
243 d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

244
245 e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians
246 15:4).

247
248 f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11;
249 Hebrews 1:3).

250
251 4. The Fall of Man

252 Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after
253 our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not
254 only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis
255 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

256
257 5. The Salvation of Man

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

260
261 a. Conditions to Salvation

262 Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord
263 Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being
264 justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope
265 of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11;
266 3:5-7).

267
268 b. The Evidences of Salvation

269 The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16).
270 The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness
271 (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

272
273 6. The Ordinances of the Church

275 a. Baptism in Water

276 The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who
277 repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they
278 declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been
279 raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts
280 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

281
282 b. Holy Communion

283 The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is
284 the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter
285 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of
286 His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He
287 come!"

288
289 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

290 All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of
291 the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord
292 Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it
293 comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their
294 uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This
295 experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-
296 17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such
297 experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened
298 reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and
299 dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and
300 for the lost (Mark 16:20).

301
302 8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

307
308 9. Sanctification

309 Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God
310 (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of
311 "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the
312 Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter
313 1:15,16).

314
315 Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His
316 death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by
317 offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13;
318 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

319
320 10. The Church and Its Mission

321 The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine
322 appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the
323 Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are
324 written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

325
326 Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be
327 worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to
328 demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason-for-being of
329 the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

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

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

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together

with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22).

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water, Matthew 28:19, shall be administered to all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation, Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12.

Section 2. Holy Communion

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures, Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Active membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- A. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth," John 3:3.
- B. Having been baptized in water by immersion subsequent to new birth.
- C. Evidence of a consistent Christian life, Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14, Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6,7.
- D. An indication of a willingness to continually contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which he or she is to become a member.
- E. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- F. Having reached at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- G. Having regularly attended services of, and financially supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- H. Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make written application to the pastor or church board. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the church board shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within thirty (30) days before an annual business meeting or within ten (10) days before a special business meeting. Membership becomes active upon vote of the official board.

Section 3. Pastor and Spouse

By virtue of office the pastor and staff pastors shall be considered an active member of the church during his or her tenure. All pastors' spouse shall become an active member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to section 9 of this Article VI.

447 Section 4. Transfer Members

448 A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for
449 membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support
450 requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the
451 other assembly, upon the approval of a majority of the church board.
452

453 Section 5. Junior Membership

454 Junior membership shall be available for young people under (eighteen) 18 years of age who give
455 evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these bylaws,
456 and are approved by majority vote of the church board. Junior members shall have voice without vote
457 privileges at all business meetings.

458 Section 6. Associate Members

459 The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate members by a majority
460 vote. Eligibility for associate membership is available to any person who is a member in good
461 standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a
462 temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be
463 entitled to all the privileges of regular members, except that they shall not be eligible to vote and shall
464 not be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VII of these bylaws.
465

466 Section 7. Honorary Members

467 The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by a
468 unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary membership is available to any member who has
469 left the church indefinitely for reasons of health or residency. Honorary membership recognition shall
470 continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and
471 maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly.
472

473 Section 8. Inactive Membership

474 Active members who shall willfully and without good cause absent themselves from the services of
475 the assembly for a period of three (3) consecutive months or more or who may be under church
476 discipline may be declared inactive members by a majority vote of the church board, and thereupon
477 shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by
478 action of the assembly through its church board. No person shall be removed from inactive
479 membership status without board approval.
480

481 Section 9. Discipline

482 A. Grounds

483 Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible, Matthew
484 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy
485 4:2; Hebrews 13:17. The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through
486 exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the
487 assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from
488 the Tenets of Faith of this assembly, as determined by the pastor with advisement of the church
489 board. The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is
490 administered by the Southern New England District Council, Inc. and the General Council of the
491 Assemblies of God, Inc.
492

493 B. Procedure

494 (1) The assembly will follow, when possible, the spirit of disciplinary procedure set forth in
495 Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The pastor or
496 a designated member of the church board privately discusses the charges with the member
497 in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then
498 the member shall meet with the pastor and church board or with a designated committee of
499 the church board in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do
500 not resolve the matter, then the member or the church board may submit the matter to the
501 membership of the assembly in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only
502 active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a special business meeting.
503 The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final. A
504 member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the church or placed on the
505 inactive membership list, Matthew 18:17. However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be
506 imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.
507

(2) The Pastor may upon his or her judgment limit, suspend, or remove a member from a ministry position based upon unscriptural conduct for a season of time. The purpose of this action is to bring the member to repentance and restoration, correcting wrongful behavior. This may further be based upon protection of a ministry from adverse affects of member's behavior. The action is to be reported to the church board who shall advise the Pastor concerning the parameters of the action. The purpose of this pastoral action to help prevent situations from developing into the need for disciplinary procedures as described in Article VI, Section 9, B, (1).

C. Resignations

Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Church Board

A. In General

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board, which shall consist of the pastor/elder and at least three (3) deacons, to the extent that such authority is not limited by District supervision or oversight as provided for under the bylaws of the Southern New England District Council, Inc. The pastor is the overseeing elder of the church, 1 Peter 5:1-2; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5.

B. Qualifications of Church Board Members

See qualifications for pastors and deacons in Article VII, Section 2 (B) and Article VII, Section 3.

C. Duties of Church Board

(1) The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.

(2) The church board shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.

(3) For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of the church board shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the church board.

(4) The church board shall elect a secretary from among its members.

(5) The church board shall elect a treasurer from among the active members of the church who meet the qualifications for such office.

Section 2. Officers

A. In General

There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairperson of the church board. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual.

B. Qualifications

(1) Pastor

The pastor shall be an ordained minister in good standing with both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Southern New England District Council, holding a current fellowship card or whose ministry credentials are approved by the Official Board and membership of Christian Life Assembly of God Church, Inc.

(2) Secretary

The secretary shall be an active member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

(3) Treasurer
The treasurer shall be an active member of this assembly for at least one (1) year immediately preceding election to office, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

(4) Deacons
a. Deacons shall meet requirements put forth in 1 Tim. 3:8-13.
b. Those with a prior marriage may serve as deacon providing they meet the criteria used by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in approving applicants with prior marriages for credentialed ministry. The following criteria is recognized: a divorce occurring prior to his or her conversion, for the Scriptural causes of marital unfaithfulness, Matthew 19:9, or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever, 1Cor. 7:10-15.

(5) Tithing
All members of the official board shall tithe. If any member of the official board ceases to tithe that official board member shall be released from official board membership.

C. Duties of Officers

(1) Pastor [May be known as "Senior" or "Lead" Pastor]
a. Shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities.
b. Shall be recognized as a member of the church board, president of the assembly, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the church board.
c. Shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings, conventions, conferences, seminars, and campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his or her approval.
d. Shall, as chairperson of the church board, be chairperson of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees. The pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as deacons.
e. Should conduct a training class at least once a year on the responsibilities of the church board, secretary, treasurer, and other church leaders. Such a training course shall be based upon the Scriptural directives for church leadership and the church bylaws.
f. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

(2) Secretary
a. Shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the church board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly.
b. Shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the secretary's duties.
c. Shall be the custodian of all legal documents.
d. Shall file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.

(3) Treasurer
a. Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the church board, and shall deposit all funds as a prudent investor would under the circumstances.
b. Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.

- c. Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
- d. Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.
- e. Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.

Section 3. Deacons

The deacons shall be men or women of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least twenty-three (23) years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall have documented proof of having supported the church with their tithes and offerings for six months prior to holding office and shall continue to tithe while in office, have a cooperative spirit, regularly attend church services and functions and have taken the required courses as set forth by the Pastor and the church board. They shall not hold ministerial credentials with the District or General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Trustees

Deacons by virtue of office serve as trustees for the church.

Section 5. Fiduciary Duties

The law imposes several fiduciary duties on officers, deacons, and trustees, including the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-mingling personal and corporate funds.

Section 6. Temporary Church Board

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and other members of the church board, destroying the unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the Southern New England District Council, Inc. Executive Presbytery along with the Sectional Presbyter (the investigating committee); upon request from the pastor; or a majority of the church board members; or a petition signed by thirty percent (30%) of the active, eligible for voting membership shall investigate such differences. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of the investigating committee they may declare the church needing District supervision. The investigating committee has the authority to arbitrate the dispute by means of (1) suspending the church board, and/or (2) reclassifying the church from a General Council affiliated status to a District Council affiliated church, and/or (3) appointing and establishing a temporary church board vested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife shall cease. If the pastor is also the sectional presbyter or a member of the Southern New England District Council, Inc. Executive Presbytery, another ordained minister appointed by the District Superintendent shall be a member of the investigating committee in his or her place.

Section 7. Local Church Credential

A. Authorization

Christian Life Assembly of God Church may grant a local church credential to persons wishing to pursue ministerial recognition pursuant to guidelines established by the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. It is understood that this credential is to endorse ministry, which is undertaken under the auspices of this church and implies no certification by the Southern New England District Council, Inc. or the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and is not transferable to other churches or ministries. The issue of the credential follows recommendation by the pastor and church board with ratification by the membership.

B. Criteria

- (1) Those with a prior marriage may be considered for the local credential providing the divorce occurred prior to conversion, resulted from infidelity, or resulted from abandonment.
- (2) The church shall not grant a local credential for ministry those conflicts with the General Council of the Assemblies of God criteria for credentialed ministry.

Section 8. Social Concerns

A. Marriage.

According to Christian Scriptures the marriage covenant shall be reserved only for one man with one woman, Genesis 1:27, 28; 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:25, 22-24; 31. Only marriages qualifying according to this spiritual understanding of Christian Scripture are permitted in or on any church properties.

B. Sexuality.

Sexuality and the divinely prescribed boundaries for the expression thereof is covered clearly in the Christian Scriptures, which limit sexual expression to the marital relationship of one man with one woman, Leviticus 20:10, 13, 15; Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 5:3-5, 8-13; 7:21-27; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 1:26-27; 13:9; Galatians 5:19; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27; 19:18; Luke 18:20; James 2:11; Jude 7. Any persons holding to views or behaving in such ways as contrary to this spiritual understanding of the Christian Scriptures may not be allowed to serve in or be employed by the church.

C. Gender

Christian Scripture recognizes that gender is restricted to male and female only. The church carries this understanding of gender in all its policies and binding documents, Genesis 1:27, 28; 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:25, 22-24; 31.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Elections

A. Pastor

(1) The pastor shall be nominated by the church board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.

(2) The pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time.

(3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.

(4) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

(5) In the event either the pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the Southern New England District Council, Inc. Executive Presbytery, or any three (3) persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

B. Secretary

The secretary shall be elected by the church board from among its members. The term of office shall be one year, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

C. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be elected by the church board from among the active members of the assembly. The term of office shall be one (1) year, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation. In the event the treasurer is not an elected deacon the treasurer may attend board meetings giving voice but not vote.

D. Deacons

(1) Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the Pastor with advisement of the church board (see Article VII, Section 2, C, [1], d) and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active, voting members present and voting at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Active members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business. Active members or deacons shall be elected to serve on the Church Board for a three (3) year term, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Deacons serving on the Church Board may not serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3)-year terms at a time. However,

if there are extenuating circumstances the membership, by majority vote, may make exception to this provision, by granting extension for a specified length of time, as they deem necessary. After being off the church board for one year an active member or deacon may be elected. The terms of deacons serving on the church board shall be staggered appropriately.

- (2) The nominating committee shall be composed of one (1) deacon, at least two (2) other members not serving on the church board or as an officer, and the Pastor.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

A. Pastor

When a vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, Section 1, A. When a pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. or the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., the pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated. In the event a special business meeting is called by petition as provided in Article IX, Section 3, for the purpose of considering the status of the pastor, a majority vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all voting members present and voting (only votes cast shall be counted) shall be required to remove a pastor from office before his or her term expires.

B. Secretary and Treasurer

The offices of secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

C. Deacons

The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the resignation or termination of a deacon's active membership due to no longer meeting biblical requirements of the office as set forth in ARTICLE VII. Government; Section 2. Officers; 4. Deacons and ARTICLE VII. Government; Section 3. Deacons.

D. In General

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the pastor) may be terminated by a majority vote of the active, voting members present and voting at a special business meeting called for the limited purpose of removal of such member from office or position of leadership, which he or she holds.

E. Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of pastor) may be filled by appointment of the pastor with advisement of the church board for the unexpired term if they meet the following requirements:

- a) Be a member of Christian Life Assembly
- b) Serve for six months prior to leading.
- c) Exceptions to a) and b) can be made at the discretion of the Pastor with the approval of the church board.

Any paid staff member would be exempt from these two requirements.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under direction of the pastor, or the church board if there is no pastor.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be during the first (1st) quarter of each calendar year. The time and place shall be set by and announced by the pastor. Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

A. Call for Meeting

(1) Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than thirty percent (30%) of the active members of the assembly. Only those active members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three (3) consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

(2) Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

(3) No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

B. Petitions for Meeting

(1) Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board.

(2) A petition pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the District Superintendent, who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly.

(3) No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any 12-month period.

C. Notice for Meeting

Any business meeting may be held without two weeks' notice by announcement from the pulpit providing each member is sent a written notice by electronic or surface mail.

Section 4. Parliamentary Order

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 Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 5. Voting Constituency

A. Qualifying of Voters

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active, voting members who are present (Article VI, Section 1). All voting members must have been active members for at least 30 days prior to any business meeting.

B. Transfer Members

Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership (Article VI, Section 4).

C. Members Under Process of Discipline

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article VI, Section 9).

Section 6. Quorum

A. A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) active members at any duly called business meeting.

B. Once a quorum has been established, the fact that one or more members later leave the meeting shall not affect the quorum for the transaction of business for that meeting.

C. In the event a quorum is not attained for two consecutive duly called meetings then for the third (3rd) called meeting a quorum shall consist of members present.

Section 7. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of this assembly shall be as follows:

(1) Scripture Reading

(2) Establishment of a Quorum

- 874
875 (3) Reading of previous minutes
876
877 (4) Report of treasurer
878
879 (5) Report of committees and ministries
880
881 (6) Unfinished business
882
883 (7) Election of officers
884
885 (8) New business
886
887 (9) Adjournment
888

889 Section 8. The Church Board

890 The church board shall normally meet monthly or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of
891 business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the pastor. A majority of the board
892 members present shall constitute a quorum.
893

894 Section 9. Membership Roll

895 The church board shall review the list of active members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled
896 meeting of the board immediately preceding the annual business meeting, and compile a current list
897 of active voting members.
898
899

900 Section 10. Manner of Voting

- 901 A. All voting in all business meetings and official board meetings shall be by voice vote or other non-
902 secret voting means unless otherwise prescribed by these bylaws or by action of the membership
903 at a meeting.
904
905 B. All voting matters such as elections or other actions are determined by votes cast.
906
907 C. The official board and all committees may accept voting by mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or
908 electronic means when not in session.
909
910 D. Absentee votes are permitted by approval of the membership at any meeting and then only for
911 reasons of absence by illness, family emergencies, travel, or work schedules.
912

913 ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS
914

915 This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and suborganizations as may be necessary
916 and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate
917 to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under
918 the general supervision of the pastor and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or
919 departments.
920

921 ARTICLE XI. FINANCE

922 Section 1. In General

923 All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes,
924 and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the
925 assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the pastor and church board and shall
926 be administered by the treasurer under its direction, Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38;1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2
927 Corinthians 9:6-8.
928

929 Section 2. Handling of Offerings

930 All offerings shall be processed by financial policies approved by the church board, which shall be in
931 harmony with generally accepted accounting practices.
932

933 Section 3. Pastoral

- 934 A. Regular Remuneration

The pastor shall be remunerated for his services by a salary, compensation, or by other means agreed upon by the church board and himself or herself. The church board shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually.

B. Reimbursement for Expenses

The pastor shall be given consideration by the church board for expenses incurred by his or her attendance at District Councils, General Councils, and other District functions by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church as determined by the church board.

C. Spousal Benefits

Upon the death of the church's pastor the church shall provide housing and full compensation for the surviving spouse for at least three (3) months.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or, if required by law, to trustees acting on behalf of the assembly and their successors in office. Should the assembly choose to do so, it may request the New England District Council of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold title.

Section 2. Purchases and Sales of Property

All purchases of furnishings, equipment, and other items of tangible personal property, exceeding \$30,000 in cost, and all purchases and sales of real property shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Section 3. Discontinuation of Church Services

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of six (6) months under the direction of an Assemblies of God credentialed minister, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article XII, section 4, of these bylaws.

Section 4. Disaffiliation

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship in full cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. Springfield, Missouri, and the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the Southern New England District Presbytery of the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to said Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and shall be used by the District as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the Southern New England District Council, Inc. may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

Section 5. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or

the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

ARTICLE XIII. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts, 1 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 or she shall be replaced in the same manner in which she or 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 five (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.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) 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 100 percent (100%) of votes cast of the active, voting members present at any annual or special business meeting called for the purpose of amending these bylaws. Article IV of these bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of

1056 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. All amendments must be consistent with the
1057 constitution and bylaws of the Southern New England District Council.

1058 **APPENDIX**

1059
1060 "Record of Amendments"

1061
1062
1063 Name of Church

1064
1065 Whereas Connecticut has the church legally listed in their database and records with the
1066 Secretary of the State as Christian Life Assembly of God Church, therefore be it

1067
1068 Resolved That the bylaws be amended to substitute the name Christian Life Assembly of
1069 God Church in every instance where Christian Life Assembly of God, Inc.
1070 appears.

1071
1072 Approved 24 June 2012

1073
1074 Ministry Credentials and Deacons

1075
1076 Whereas The intent of Article VII Section 3 is that of elders who are credentialed as District
1077 and General Council ministers not serve as deacons, and

1078
1079 Whereas Christian Life Assembly may grant a local church credential for lay ministries
1080 valuable for the work of the local church, and

1081
1082 Whereas The local church credential is not a District or General Council credential, and

1083
1084 Whereas Christian Life Assembly may desire to credential deacons for the purpose of lay
1085 ministries or outreach ministries, therefore be it

1086
1087 Resolved That the last line of Article VII, Section 3. Deacons which reads

1088
1089 "They shall not hold ministerial credentials."

1090
1091 Be amended to read, ""They shall not hold ministerial credentials with the District
1092 or General Council of the Assemblies of God."

1093
1094 Approved 28 April 2013

1095
1096 Ministry Credentials of Pastor

1097
1098 Whereas The Assemblies of God marks its 100 year anniversary in 2014, and

1099
1100 Whereas A church history reveals that often great movements and denominations tend to
1101 lose their adherence to correct doctrine as generations pass, and

1102
1103 Whereas The Assemblies of God is not immune from such tendencies, and

1104
1105 Whereas Evidence is beginning to emerge that some ministers have yielded to such
1106 tendencies, yet remain in good standing, and

1107
1108 Whereas CLA needs to protect itself by not being bound to having a minister credentialed
1109 by the Assemblies - - should there come a time when doing so would force a
1110 compromise of the church's doctrinal integrity and mission, therefore be it

1111
1112 Resolved To amend the current bylaw which reads

1113
1114 ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

1115 Section 2. Officers
1116 B. Qualifications
1117 (1) Pastor
1118

1119 The pastor shall be an ordained minister in good standing with
1120 both the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the
1121 Southern New England District Council, holding a current
1122 fellowship card.
1123
1124

1125
1126 To add to the end of the sentence
1127

1128 or whose ministry credentials are approved by the Official Board
1129 of Christian Life Assembly of God Church, Inc.
1130

1131 Amended to read
1132

1133 or whose ministry credentials are approved by the Official Board
1134 and membership of Christian Life Assembly of God Church, Inc.
1135
1136

1137 Approved 26 January 2014
1138

1139 Deacons
1140

1141 Whereas Christian Life Assembly believes any position of leadership in the church should
1142 be held to a high biblical standard.
1143

1144 Whereas There should be a consistent metric of accountability when appointing leaders in
1145 the church.
1146

1147 Whereas A consistent process for anyone will ensure relational credibility before
1148 appointing any leadership position in the church.
1149

1150 Resolved To amend the current bylaw which reads
1151

1152 ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS
1153 Section 2. Vacancies and Removals
1154 E. Filling Vacancies (Line Item 764)
1155

1156 Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of pastor) may
1157 be filled by appointment of the pastor with advisement of the church board for the
1158 unexpired term.
1159

1160 To have it read:
1161

1162 Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of pastor) may
1163 be filled by appointment of the pastor with advisement of the church board for the
1164 unexpired term if they meet the following requirements:

1165 a) Be a member of Christian Life Assembly

1166 b) Serve for six months prior to leading.

1167 c) Exceptions to a) and b) can be made at the discretion of the Pastor
1168 with the approval of the church board.

1169 Any paid staff member would be exempt from these two requirements.
1170

1171
1172 Approved 29 January 2017
1173
1174
1175

1176 Whereas The office of a board member and the office of a deacon are two separate
1177 offices.
1178
1179 Whereas When the term of office for a church board member expires, the term of office for
1180 a deacon should not as long as they remain biblically qualified.
1181
1182 Whereas A deacon is a servant-leader in the church who upholds the hands of the Pastor.
1183
1184 Whereas This amendment to the constitution will ensure the development of leaders at
1185 Christian Life Assembly.
1186
1187 Resolved To amend the current bylaw which reads
1188
1189 ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS
1190 Section 2. Vacancies and Removals
1191 C. Deacons (Line Item 754)
1192
1193 The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or
1194 upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur
1195 first.
1196
1197 To have it read:
1198
1199 The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the resignation or termination of a
1200 deacon's active membership due to no longer meeting biblical requirements of
1201 the office as set forth in ARTICLE VII. Government; Section 2. Officers; 4.
1202 Deacons and ARTICLE VII. Government; Section 3. Deacons.
1203
1204
1205 Approved 29 January 2017
1206
1207
1208 Whereas The office of a deacon should be held to a high standard.
1209
1210 Whereas Proper training through biblical courses should be a requirement as set forth by
1211 the Pastor.
1212
1213 Resolved To amend the current bylaw which reads
1214
1215 ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT
1216 Section 3. Deacons (Line Item 617)
1217
1218 The deacons shall be men or women of mature Christian experience and
1219 knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1
1220 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least twenty-three (23) years old, and
1221 shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall have
1222 documented proof of having supported the church with their tithes and offerings
1223 for six months prior to holding office and shall continue to tithe while in office,
1224 have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services and functions.
1225 They shall not hold ministerial credentials with the District or General Council of
1226 the Assemblies of God.
1227
1228 To have it read:
1229
1230 The deacons shall be men or women of mature Christian experience and
1231 knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1
1232 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least twenty-three (23) years old, and
1233 shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall have
1234 documented proof of having supported the church with their tithes and offerings
1235 for six months prior to holding office and shall continue to tithe while in office,
1236 have a cooperative spirit, regularly attend church services and functions and

1237 have taken the required courses as set forth by the Pastor and the church board.
1238 They shall not hold ministerial credentials with the District or General Council of
1239 the Assemblies of God.
1240

1241
1242 Approved 29 January 2017
1243

1244
1245
1246 Whereas There needs to be a distinction between a deacon serving on the church board
1247 and a deacon NOT serving on the church board.
1248

1249 Whereas All deacons need to be nominated and elected as identified in bylaws.
1250

1251 Whereas Each year at the annual business meeting deacons will be elected to serve in the
1252 office of a deacon and deacons will be elected to serve on the church board.
1253

1254 Resolved To amend the current bylaw which reads
1255

1256 ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS
1257 Section 1. Elections

1258 D. Deacons (Line Item 720)
1259

1260 Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the Pastor
1261 with advisement of the church board (see Article VII, Section 2, C, [1], d) and
1262 they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active, voting members present
1263 and voting at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is
1264 to be conducted. Active members may recommend nominees to the nominating
1265 committee; however, nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor
1266 during any business. Deacons shall be elected for a three (3) year term, and
1267 shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is
1268 elected. Deacons may not serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3)-year
1269 terms at a time. However, if there are extenuating circumstances the
1270 membership, by majority vote, may make exception to this provision, by granting
1271 extension for a specified length of time, as they deem necessary. After being off
1272 the church board for one year an active member may be elected. The terms of
1273 deacons shall be staggered appropriately.
1274

1275 To have it read:
1276

1277 Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the Pastor
1278 with advisement of the church board (see Article VII, Section 2, C, [1], d) and
1279 they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active, voting members present
1280 and voting at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is
1281 to be conducted. Active members may recommend nominees to the nominating
1282 committee; however, nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor
1283 during any business. Active members or deacons shall be elected to serve on the
1284 Church Board for a three (3) year term, and shall hold office until the annual
1285 business meeting at which their successor is elected. Deacons serving on the
1286 Church Board may not serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3)-year terms
1287 at a time. However, if there are extenuating circumstances the membership, by
1288 majority vote, may make exception to this provision, by granting extension for a
1289 specified length of time, as they deem necessary. After being off the church
1290 board for one year an active member or deacon may be elected. The terms of
1291 deacons serving on the church board shall be staggered appropriately.
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1294 Approved 29 January 2017
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