

FAITH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

**254 Spackenkill Road
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603**

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

This edition of the Constitution and By-Laws contains all corrections and revisions and amendments through 3/24/10:

UPDATED April 20, 2010

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a people who shall constitute the Body or Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; and,

WHEREAS, God having ordained that this Universal church should find its expression in and through local churches, enjoining them to assemble together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, and for the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we whose names appear on the assembly roster as of this date do recognize ourselves as a local assembly, first organized as such on May 17, 1944, and do affirm ourselves to be in the cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and an active member of the New York District of the Assemblies of God, and do hereby adopt the following articles of church order this 22nd day of February in the year of our Lord 1989*, these to supplement the Articles of Incorporation and to supersede any and all other rules of church order.

**(Note: should this be changed to the current date of revisions 3/24/10?)*

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this church shall be Faith Assembly of God of Poughkeepsie, State of New York.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 1. To establish and maintain a place of worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit, and for the promotion of Christian fellowship and edification.

Section 2. To obey in our capacity the Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8, 8:4.

ARTICLE III

Prerogatives

Section 1. This assembly, being an independent corporation, incorporated under Article 10 of the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York, shall have all the rights covered by said Article, and shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:3, 13.

Section 2. To have a membership which is determined by the local assembly, and to discipline its members according to the Scriptures.

Section 3. To choose and call its pastor, elect its officers and transact all other business pertaining to its life and conduct as a local church.

Section 4. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be deemed necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the local assembly.

Section 5. To purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell subject to the securing of a court order, convey, mortgage, lease – which is limited to five years by statute, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE IV Affiliation

Section 1. While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, the assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like previous faith associated in the New York 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. In the event serious conditions should arise within the assembly affecting either its life or testimony, it shall be the privilege of the pastor, the Board of Directors, or one-fourth of the voting membership to appeal to the officary of the New York District Council of the Assemblies of God for their counsel or help.

ARTICLE V Tenets of Faith

Section 1. This assembly shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God (1983 Revision included):

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms “Trinity” and “persons” as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with 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; II 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 to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. Luke 1:35; I Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 1:3, 4/

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

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one. John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9.

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to 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 relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 8:17, 18.

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, “Lord Jesus Christ,” is a proper name. It is never applied, in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. Romans 1:1-3, 7; II 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; I 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 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; II John 3; I 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 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. II John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; I 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 been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all. Hebrews 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; I Corinthians 15:24-28.

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

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

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22).
- (c) His Miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21)
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4).
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philemon 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) Conditions to Salvation

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

(b) The Evidence of Salvation

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

6. Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

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

(b) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; I Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:79). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His Work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

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

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I 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; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. 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 worshipful relationship with God (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12, 13, and 14).
- (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24), (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and

blessed hope of the church (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I 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; Psalms 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” (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

ARTICLE VI Ordinances

Section 1. The ordinance of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4)

Section 2. The Lord’s Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Corinthians 11:26); and prophecy of His second coming (I Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

ARTICLE VII

Marriage & Divorce

Section 1. Marriage was established by God (Gen. 2:18, 21-25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman as indicated in (Matt. 19:4-6). Marriage between persons of the same sex is expressly forbidden by God (Rom. 1: 26, 27; I Cor 6:9-10). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Gen. 2:24; Mark 10:9; Eph. 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (II Cor. 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Jesus Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:23-33).

Key to the success of any marriage is for the marriage partners to interrelate in the manner prescribed in scripture as the husband sacrificially loves his wife as Christ loved the Church and the wife loves and respects her husband (Eph 5: 24-33; Col 3:19).

Section 2. Divorce and Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We strongly disapprove of Christians getting divorced for any cause except those allowed biblically (Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:9; I Corinthians 7:15). Where these exceptional circumstances exist, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer in the light of God's Word (I Cor. 7:15,27,28).

ARTICLE VIII

Membership

Section 1. Individuals who give evidence of a personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to the tenets of faith and agree to be governed by the constitution and by-laws, as herein set forth, are eligible for membership in this assembly. (Requirements for membership are set forth in the By-Laws, Article 1 Section 1).

ARTICLE IX

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the church shall be known as the Board of Directors and consist of ten members. This number is to include the offices of Church Treasurer and Secretary of the Board. The pastor, being designated as the President of the Corporation, is the tenth member of the Board of Directors and its appointed Chairman. The duties of the seven general members are defined in Article III of the By-Laws.

Section 2. The Board of Directors, together with the pastor, shall be committed to the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church. The voting privilege of the Board of Directors

shall be vested in the pastor, those members elected by the membership or those appointed to fill the unexpired term of any voting member.

ARTICLE X

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the pastor and the other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly at which time the reports of all officers shall be read and election of officers shall take place. The Annual Business Meeting will be held during the latter part of April. The date will be set by the Board of Directors, and due notice given to the assembly. Copies of all reports will be available two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary by the pastor, or by the majority of the Board of Directors, after proper notice has been given by the pastor or by the secretary to the assembly.

Section 4. Right of Initiative. Special business meetings may also be called by petition which specifies the reason for calling the meeting, is signed by not less than one-fourth of the voting membership of the assembly, and is placed in the hands of the pastor or the secretary. The petition shall be examined by the pastor and the Board of Directors in order that the matter may be resolved in accordance with the constitution and by-laws. If the matter cannot be resolved by the pastor and the Board of Directors to the satisfaction of the party or parties requesting the business meeting, action shall be taken by the pastor and the Board of Directors within thirty days after the petition has been presented, unless mutually agreed upon by all concerned, when an extension of time may be granted. Whereupon the Board of Directors, through the pastor or secretary shall call such a meeting, and no business other than that for which the meeting was called, shall be transacted. Due notice of the time, date, and purpose of such business meeting shall be given to the assembly. The absence of a quorum shall negate the petition.

Section 5. Quorum. No record of any regular or special business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third or more voting members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business of the assembly. At least a majority of the Board of Directors must be present to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI
Extensions, Departments and Committees

Section 1. The assembly shall maintain extensions, departments or committees, e.g., Sunday School, Youth, Missions, as the needs of the assembly may require. All such extensions, departments or committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the welfare, development and harmony of the whole, and shall be under the supervision of the pastor and the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII
Finances

Section 1. All funds for the maintenance of the assembly and its various work shall be provided by voluntary tithes, offerings, and contributions of the members and friends of the assembly. Offerings shall be accepted at such times and in such ways as may be agreed upon by the pastor and the Board of Directors, and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction. (Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38; Hebrews 7:4-9; Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-8).

ARTICLE XIII
Property

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the name of the assembly, in accordance with New York State Law.

Section 2. No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated, without the same having been authorized by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular or special business meeting called for that purpose.

Section 3. The pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall under extenuating circumstances have the right to negotiate and place a binder on a desired piece of property, providing the Binder Contract clearly stipulates that the final purchase is subject to the approval of the church body.

Section 5. In the event that the assembly herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel, shall become the property of the New York District Council of the Assemblies of God, a corporation. The latter shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the membership who are present at any regular or special business meeting called for that purpose by the pastor or secretary.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Membership

Persons of mature judgment who shall have met the requirements as set forth in the constitution of this assembly, shall have the privilege of applying for church membership.

Section 1. Standard of Membership.

The standard of Membership for this assembly shall be:

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience of regeneration. John 1:12, 13; I Peter 1:18-25.
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. Romans 6:4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 4:1, 2, 15; I John 1:6, 7
- (c) Baptism in water by immersion. Matthew 28:19, 20. Romans 6:3-12.
- (d) Full subscription to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitution.
- (e) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the assembly with tithes, and offerings.
- (f) Concerning Divorce and Remarriage. Those who have suffered a divorce and have been remarried may be received into membership; however, we strongly disapprove of Christians getting divorced for any cause except those allowed biblically (Matthew 19:9; I Corinthians 7:15). *See Article VII of the Constitution of Faith Assembly of God for a statement of our beliefs concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage.*
- (g) Concerning Cohabitation. In no case shall those persons be accepted into membership who are cohabiting outside of marriage.

Section 2. Junior Membership

Young persons at least twelve years of age who have not reached their sixteenth birthday shall be eligible for membership by meeting the qualifications for membership in Section 1. a, b, c, d, e, and completing the “Foundation for Faith” course. Junior Members will have to apply for voting membership upon reaching their sixteenth birthday.

Section 3. Reception of Members

- (a)** Persons desiring to become members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
- (b)** Persons applying for membership must complete the membership training course.
- (c)** The pastor shall present to the Board of Directors the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation. After due consideration, those whom the Board of Directors presents to the assembly for membership shall be publicly welcomed into the local fellowship at an appropriate service, and their names shall be entered in the assembly roster. Membership shall be effective as of the date of the Board of Directors approval.

Section 4. Voting Privileges

All active members 16 years of age or older constitute the voting membership of the assembly, except for the election of trustees and in matters involving title to real estate, in which case the voting members shall be at least twenty-one years of age.

Section 5. Revision of Roster

- (a)** The Board of Directors shall be authorized to revise the membership roster of the assembly two months prior to the annual business meeting. They shall remove from the list of members all names of those who have died during the year, together with the names of those who have withdrawn from fellowship, or who have fallen into sin and whose lives have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of this assembly – provided they have been consulted by the pastor on the subject.
- (b)** Members in good standing who wish to sever their relationship with the church, or who may desire to transfer to some other congregation, may apply to the secretary for a letter which shall be granted upon the approval of the Board of Directors, said letter to be signed by the pastor and secretary of the Board.

Section 6. Discipline

Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be lovingly and prayerfully administered according to the Scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; II Thessalonians 3:11-15). Any member under discipline shall be temporarily suspended from the active membership, pending a final decision in his case.

Section 7. Inactive Membership

- (a)** Any member of the assembly who willfully absents himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or ceases to contribute of his means to the support of the church, or is under discipline, shall be considered inactive and shall lose his voting privileges until he is reinstated to active membership.
- (b)** A sincere effort first shall be made by the pastor, or someone designated by him, to contact the absentee and encourage regular attendance. If the member continues his absence for one month after such contact, or if contact is impossible, he shall then be put on the inactive membership list, and shall be notified in writing by the secretary of the Board that such action has been taken.
- (c)** An appeal may be made to the Board of Directors for a reconsideration of this action. If reinstatement is not granted, the action of the Board of Directors shall be final.

ARTICLE II Qualifications, Elections, and Vacancies

Section 1. Qualifications

(a) Board of Directors

All nominees for these offices must satisfy the following:

1. Be an active member as defined in the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, and the laws of the State of New York (eligible to vote on legal matters).
2. Fulfill scriptural qualifications as given in I Timothy 3:2-13, and Acts 6:3.
3. Divorced persons that remain single may serve on the Board of Directors. Divorced and remarried persons may serve on the Board of Directors provided both marriage partners do not have a living spouse, or if the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:10-15).
4. Tithe to this assembly as given in Malachi 3:10 and Hebrews 7:4-9.
5. Must be consistent and regular in attendance.
6. No two individuals who are blood relations, or related by marriage shall serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

(b) Pastor

Shall be a member in good standing of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Elections

(a) The Pastor

The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period, unless otherwise stipulated by the assembly at the time of election. The Board of Directors, acting in the capacity of a Pulpit Committee, after prayerful inquiry, and with the judicious counsel, full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select an available, scripturally qualified minister as nominee to the office of pastor, and present his name for the vote of the assembly without undue delay. Any member of the assembly may offer a minister's name for the consideration of the committee.

The counsel of the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter should be sought. Election shall be by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

(b) Nominating Committee

Nominations for church officers shall be made by a nominating committee, consisting of the pastor, three members of the Board of Directors, and three members at large from the assembly. This nominating committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors three months prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The nominating committee shall seek to nominate three individuals for each office to be voted upon and must present to the church body, no less than 2 candidates for the office. Elections shall be made from among the choices presented to the body by the nominating committee. The names of the nominees shall be read to the congregation, each of the two Sundays prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Sitting board members, who meet the qualifications for the Board of Directors and who are eligible for re-election, may be re-nominated by the nominating committee.

(c) Board of Directors

General members of the Board of Directors shall be nominated by the nominating committee, and shall be elected by a majority vote at the Annual Business Meeting. Except for vacancies created by resignations or other reasons, no more than three general members shall be elected each year. The term of office shall be three years. They may serve up to two consecutive terms after which they must take a one year sabbatical. After the sabbatical, they will once again be eligible for nomination.

(d) Secretary and Treasurer

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen by the Board of Directors from its own membership at the first monthly Board meeting following the Annual Business Meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year and assumed at the time of their election.

(e) Trustees

All members of the Board of Directors shall serve as Trustees

(f) Honorary Directors

Honorary Directors may be appointed to permanent *position* from those members of the body who have attained sixty-five years of age or more, who have previously noted qualifications for directors, and who may also have shown outstanding ministry to the church. Honorary members may lend advice and give counsel and prayer support. The *position*, however, will be a NO-VOTE *position*. Honorary Directors shall be appointed by the pastor, passed by the Board of Directors, and ratified by the assembly.

(g) Office Assumption

Those elected at the Annual Business Meeting shall assume their offices upon election.

Section 3. Vacancies

(a) The Pastor

The tenure of office in the pastorate shall be terminated by resignation, removal, death, or disqualification. Power is vested in the Board of Directors to ask for the resignation of the pastor at any of its regular business meetings. Grounds for such action shall be unscriptural conduct, or departure from the tenets of faith, or incompetency in office. If the resignation so requested is refused, a meeting shall be called to occur within thirty days of the requested resignation to bring this issue before the membership for their decision and disposition on the matter. The pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board of Directors has been confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose, such meeting to be presided over by the district officary. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, the Board of Directors shall arrange for speakers until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 2a.

If the pastor resigns, he shall give the church at least one month's advance notice. Likewise, if the church asks for the pastor's resignation, they shall give him at least one month's advance notice.

(b) Board of Directors

1. Any other office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors at any regular or special business meeting. Ground for such action shall be: (a) unscriptural conduct; (b) doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith; (c) incompetency in office.
2. Any incumbent under charges shall have the opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires.

3. If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall appoint a qualified church member to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. Should the vacancy occur within three months prior to the Annual Business Meeting, the appointment is not mandatory. The remainder of the unexpired term shall not be considered as part of the term that a Director may serve before being required to take a sabbatical.

ARTICLE III

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Pastor

The assembly finds its headship, under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its pastor. He should be honored in his sacred office as the spiritual overseer of the assembly, and shall be general supervisor of all its activities. He shall be President of the Corporation and shall be the Chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and the Board of Directors. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the assembly. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

Section 2. The Board of Directors and Trustees

They shall serve in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and all other church activities. They are the servants of the entire church body, by whom they have been placed in office to carry out its will, and are for counsel and mutual assistance with the pastor in the administration of the business and work of the assembly. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to provide for their own chairman from their membership in order to transact business for the assembly.

The Board of Directors shall act for the church body in the administration of the physical property and other matters of general business. They shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment, and for the cleanliness of the church. They shall maintain inventories of furniture, fixture, and equipment, and assure adequate insurance coverage in all areas. The use of the physical facilities for other than normal services shall be authorized by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall bring to the church body recommendations concerning the acquisition or disposal of property. The trustees, by virtue of their office are empowered to act in behalf of the assembly in all matters involving sale or transfer of church property, and will act with the authorization of the Board of Directors and the church body. The Board of Directors shall conduct financial reviews as needed and shall review church salaried positions each November.

The specific duties of the seven general members of the Board of Directors are defined as follows:

- All members elected are Trustees with responsibility for the facilities and grounds.
- One member to be appointed by the Board of Directors as liaison to Melodyland Nursery School and Faith Christian Academy Board of Education.
- One member to be appointed by the Board of Directors as liaison to the Men's Ministries Department
- One member to be appointed by the Board of Directors as liaison to the Women's Ministries Department
- One member to be appointed by the Board of Directors to have responsibility for chairing a standing Procedures and Policies Committee. The committee also to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Directors and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. The Secretary shall keep record of the membership in the assembly roster, and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the Secretary's duties. The Secretary shall deposit all legal documents in a safe deposit box as authorized by the church. The Secretary shall update and make available within 60 days copies of the affected pages of the revised Constitution and By-Laws as amendments are approved by the assembly.

Section 4. The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall oversee all financial matters of the assembly, to include:

- (a) All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons (if not members of the Board of Directors, such authorization shall be designated by the Board of Directors), who shall convey the same to the Treasurer.
- (b) The Treasurer or a person designated by the Board of Directors shall deposit all funds in a bank authorized by the assembly in the assembly's name.
- (c) All checks must be countersigned by any two persons designated by the Board of Directors.
- (d) The Treasurer shall see that an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements are kept. The Treasurer shall make a financial report to the Board of Directors monthly and to the assembly annually. The Treasurer's books shall be subject to inspection by the Board of Directors at any time. There shall be an official review taken every three years, or upon change of Treasurer. In addition, a simple review shall be performed annually by the Board of Directors or their designee.

ARTICLE IV

Departments

Section 1. Christian Education Department

(a) Sunday School

The Sunday School shall be conducted as a branch of the church activities. The pastor, together with the Board of Directors shall appoint the Christian Education Director, who shall in turn appoint all other officers subject to the approval of the pastor and the Board of Directors.

The Sunday School Executive Committee shall consist of the pastor, Christian Education Director – liaison to the Board of Directors, and all other officers of the Sunday School, who shall supervise all its activities and appoint such teachers from time to time as the work may require.

(b) Melodyland Nursery School and Faith Christian Academy

A Christian school shall be conducted as a branch of the church activities. The pastor, together with the Board of Directors, shall appoint the school principal, who shall in turn appoint all other officers subject to the approval of the pastor and the Board of Directors. It shall be governed by its own by-laws, which are in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of this assembly.

The Board of Education shall consist of the pastor, the school principal, a liaison from the Board of Directors, and all other appointed officers, who shall supervise all its activities and appoint such teachers from time to time as the work may require. All appointees shall be ratified by the Board of Directors of this assembly.

Section 2. Youth Department

The Youth Department shall be recognized as an important part of the church's ministry. The purpose of this department shall be to promote worship, fellowship, discipleship, and evangelism in our youth. The activities of this department shall be directed by a Minister to Youth – liaison to the Board of Directors, chosen by the pastor. The department shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and the Board of Directors. It shall be governed by its own by-laws, which are in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of this assembly.

Section 3. Women's Ministries

(a) Women's Department

The Women's Department shall meet at stated times for the purpose of fostering closer fellowship, engaging in prayer for various requests and to assist in a practical way the

work of the church, locally, in the district, and in distant lands. It shall be governed by its own by-laws, which are in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of this assembly.

(b) Missionettes

A Missionette program in cooperation with district and national programs shall be established under Women's Ministries for the purpose of ministering, evangelizing, and teaching Christian values to the young girls and women of the church and community. They shall have an Executive Committee that oversees its activities under the general supervision of the pastor and the Board of Directors.

(c) Rainbows

A Rainbow program in cooperation with district and national programs shall be established under Women's Ministries for the purpose of ministering, evangelizing, and teaching Christian values to the young girls and boys, ages 3 and 4 years old, of the church and community. The Missionettes Executive Committee shall oversee its activities under the general supervision of the pastor and the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Men's Ministries

(a) Men's Department

The Men's Department shall meet at stated times for the purpose of fostering closer fellowship, engaging in prayer for various requests and to assist in a practical way the work of the church, locally, in the district, and in distant lands. It shall be governed by its own by-laws, which are in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of this assembly.

(b) Royal Rangers

A Royal Ranger program in cooperation with district and national programs shall be established under Men's Ministries for the purpose of ministering, evangelizing, and teaching Christian values to the young boys and men of the church and community. They shall have an Executive Committee that oversees its activities under the general supervision of the pastor and the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Other Departments

Other departments shall be established as extensions of the church as the need arises.

ARTICLE V

Finances

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall determine all salaries. The pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The executive committee of each department will conduct its own financial affairs. No department shall obligate itself in any indebtedness without the Board of Director's approval. Any major appropriation of church finances is subject to the ratification of the church body. The Board of Directors shall provide for the auditing of each department's books annually, or at the termination of an office.

Section 3. This assembly shall provide a regular monthly World Mission offering to be disbursed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. This assembly shall share in the expense of the New York District Council of the Assemblies of God by contributing in accordance with the District Matchmaking Plan.

Section 5. The fiscal year of the church shall coincide with the calendar year. The Board of Directors shall appoint appropriate auditors from the assembly to audit the business books. This audit should be completed by March 1 of the new calendar year.

ARTICLE VI

Order of Business Meetings

Business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedures, and should be conducted in the spirit of Christ, and in brotherly counsel. The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the assembly shall be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of the Roster
3. Reading of minutes
4. Election of officers and trustees
5. Report of the Secretary
6. Report of the Treasurer
7. Reports of the Departments
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Closing of polls and adjournment.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly who are present at any regular or special business meeting called for that purpose by the pastor or secretary.

ARTICLE VIII

Revision of Constitution and By-Laws

1. Every ten years a Constitution Review Committee shall be established to review the Constitution and By-Laws of Faith Assembly of God. The committee shall consist of six people from the active membership of the church. The committee shall be appointed by the pastor and he shall act as advisor and appoint the chairman of the committee. The committee shall make its recommendations to the Board of Directors.
2. The committee shall be formed during the month following the annual business meeting prior to each tenth year.
3.
 - (a) The committee shall accept for review all written and signed recommendations from any active church member.
 - (b) The committee shall, after due and prayerful deliberation, give as full a written reply as possible, either pro or con, to the writer of said recommendation.
 - (c) If the writer of the recommendation is not satisfied with the decision of the committee, it shall be his right to bring the recommendation to the floor of the meeting called for the purpose of adopting the revised Constitution and By-Laws.
4.
 - (a) A special Board of Directors meeting to receive the report of the Constitution Review Committee shall be called by the pastor or secretary prior to each tenth year annual business meeting.
 - (b) The Board of Directors shall recommend such alterations or amendments as it finds necessary after due and prayerful deliberation.
 - (c) A special church business meeting to receive the final report of the committee shall be called by the pastor or secretary prior to each tenth year annual business meeting.
 - (d) The body shall vote on said alterations and amendments in accordance with Article XIV of the Constitution and Article VII of the By-Laws.