

**CONSTITUTION &
BYLAWS**

of

EVANGEL COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

A Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation

Passed February 4, 2024

**EVANGEL COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The name of the Corporation is EVANGEL COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. This corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the "Church." The Church maintains its principal office at 3857 Centerville Rosebud Rd., Snellville, GA 30039.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

Section 1. Right of Autonomy

This Church 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 of the knowledge of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3,13).

Section 2. Right to Property

This Church shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world missions, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Assemblies of God in its national, state, and local expressions.

ARTICLE IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

- 1. EVANGELISM/MISSIONS - To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9).

2. EDUCATION - To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal growth, spiritual growth, and discipleship through Bible teaching (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, Timothy 2:2).
3. WORSHIP - To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions (John 4:24).
4. MINISTRY/SERVICE - To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, in our community, and in the world (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13).
5. FELLOWSHIP - To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together. (I John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5,7; John 13:34-35)

This Church seeks to benefit the people of the Atlanta, Georgia, metro area by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, and cultural development (Luke 2:52).

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FAITH

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs. This Church accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God:

Section 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).

Section 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).

Section 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; the scriptures declare the following:

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31-35),
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22),
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38),
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (I Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21),
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4), and

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

Section 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).

Section 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 and 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).

Section 6. The 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 Savior 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).
- 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 (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes!"

Section 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment 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; 1 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; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes 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 Work, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit 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 (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28) but different in purpose and use.

Section 9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 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 Spirit, we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

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

Section 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 worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the primary reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is the following:

- 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).

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), and
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit, gifts, and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body

of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

Section 11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in the following:

- a. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20),
- b. Worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and
- c. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Section 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).

Section 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).

Section 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).

Section 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).

Section 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 21:21, 22).

Section 17. Gender, Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

We believe that marriage is a holy institution ordained by God in Genesis 2:20-24. God Himself instituted marriage by creating it and bringing the first man and woman together at the dawn of human creation. Marriage is an exclusive covenantal union of one biological man and one biological woman into a lifelong relationship, which the Scriptures call “one flesh” (Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31). Marriage between a man and a woman is the only accepted sexual relationship provided for in the Scriptures.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality is sinful to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31).

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ex-Officio Membership of Ministerial Staff and Spouses

The Lead Pastor, the Pastoral Team, and their spouses, by virtue of their positions, shall become and be active voting members of this church, such ex-officio church membership to terminate with termination from their respective offices.

Section 2. General

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll.

Section 3. Qualifications for Membership

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for Salvation (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-23)
2. Belief in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as in Acts 2.

3. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:1-4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 1 John 1:6, 7)
4. Having been or seeking to be water baptized by immersion.
5. Subscribe to the Statement of Faith.
6. Willingness to generously support the work of the church according to biblical instruction (2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Malachi 3:10)
7. Abide by the Membership Commitment.

Section 4. Designation of Membership

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, two rolls shall be maintained. These rolls shall be updated periodically.

1. Active Members: All members who meet the scriptural standards for membership and are currently active in the Church.
2. Inactive Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of extended absences. The church board may deem a member inactive who without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the Church, or cease to contribute their financial support, or may be out of harmony with the teaching or ministries. Inactive members lose their voting privileges.

Section 5. Membership Process

Those seeking membership in this church shall make application by filling out an application for membership, and submit it to the Lead Pastor or their designated representative, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.

Section 6. Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of membership are described in the membership commitment.

Section 7. Voting Rights of Membership

Active members shall have the right to vote on the following matters: amendments to the Bylaws of the Church, and the calling or removing of the Lead Pastor. Each member 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Section 8. Grounds for Discipline

Unscriptural conduct or radical departure from the tenets of faith held by this church (see Article III of the Constitution) shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which such person(s) shall be disqualified as a member.

Section 9. Termination of Membership

Members shall be removed from the Church membership rolls for the following reasons:

1. Death,
2. Transfer of membership to another church,
3. Any member of the church who shall, without good cause, absent themselves from the services for a period of ninety (90) days,
4. By personal request of the member, or
5. Dismissal by the Church Board according to the following conditions:

The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Membership Commitment, (see Article 6, Section 3) in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community. Unscriptural conduct or radical departure from the tenets of faith held by this church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which such person(s) shall be disqualified as a member. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17. Names may be dropped from the assembly roster by a two-thirds vote of the Board; and those dealt with shall be duly informed of their removal from the list of members and shall have no further right to appeal or redress in this church, the civil courts, or elsewhere.

Section 10. Restoration of Members

Members dismissed by the Church Board can be restored by the Church Board according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their lifestyles are judged to be in accordance with the Membership Commitment.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Order of Business

In order to expedite the work of the church business meetings and board meetings and to avoid confusion in deliberations, all meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The parliamentary authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order and it shall apply when it is not inconsistent with the Bylaws or any special rules of order that this church may adopt in the future.

Section 2. Annual Celebration Meetings

An Annual Membership Meeting of the active members shall be held during the first quarter of each calendar year at such time as determined by the Church Board. The purpose of this meeting shall be to celebrate the Lord's blessing upon the Church from the previous year, present a financial report, and to cast vision for the future ministry of the Church. Subject to Section 4 of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Lead Pastor.

Section 4. Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings

1. General Requirements. Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than two (2) weeks prior to a meeting.

Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:

- a. Distribution of written or digital material to the congregation in attendance at all regular weekend services; or
 - b. Oral announcement to the congregation; or
 - c. Delivery by United States mail to each member identified on the membership roll.
 - e. Delivery by electronic means to each member identified on the membership roll.
2. Notice of Certain Agenda Items. Action by the members on any of the following proposals, other than by unanimous approval by those members present and entitled to vote is valid only if the notice or waiver of notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:
 - a. Calling or removing the Lead Pastor;
 - b. Adopting, amending, or repealing Bylaws;
 - c. Approving the election to dissolve the Church.

Section 5. Quorum

Those active members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

Section 6. Adoption

Any action taken by the voting membership requires a two-thirds vote at a duly called meeting where quorum is present unless stated otherwise.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH BOARD

Section 1. Qualifications

1. All members of the church board henceforth known as the board must meet all qualifications for membership (Article VI, Section 3).
2. All members of the Board shall be at least twenty-one years old and shall have been members of the Church for at least one year.

3. Because of their leadership role, they must be:
 1. Faithful in their financial (tithe and offerings) responsibilities to the church.
 2. Faithful in attending the worship services of the church and actively serving within the ministries of the church.
 3. In harmony with the philosophy of church leadership.
 4. Faithful to a Biblical worldview.
4. Those considered for the Church Board must be people who are spiritually mature, have an excellent spirit (Daniel 6:3), are committed to serve in unity with others, and display a desire to support the vision of the Lead Pastor. Each Board member serves and assists the Lead Pastor in fulfilling the Church's mission.

Section 2. Appointment, Number, Term, Removal, and Vacancies

1. There shall be a screening committee composed of the existent Church Board and Lead Pastor. There shall only be sufficient nominees, as are vacancies on the board. Nominees shall be screened to ensure they meet the qualifications of service (see Article VIII Section 1), selected for appointment by a majority of the board and receive approval of the Lead Pastor. Nominees shall only be appointed onto the board based on the number of vacancies available on the board for that given year. The nomination process shall begin at minimum two months prior to the annual celebration meeting.
2. The authorized number of Church Board members shall be, until changed by amendment of the Bylaws duly adopted by the members, such number as may from time to time be authorized by resolution of the Board provided that such number shall not be less than three (3) nor more than seven (7), excluding the Lead Pastor who shall serve as chairman. The Board shall consist of the Lead Pastor and non-employed members as defined in Article VI.
 - a. Each board member may serve a maximum of one term following the process outlined in Section 2. Paragraph 1 and shall hold office until a successor has been designated and qualified or until earlier resignation or removal. The term of service shall be for three (3) years; the terms to be staggered. The first ratification of Board members will have taken place in the following manner. One (1) member will be elected for (1) year. Two (2) members will be elected for two (2) years. Additionally, two (2) members will be elected for three (3) years. Each member will be required to step off the Church Board for at least (1) year after serving before they are eligible to serve on the Church Board again.
 - b. Board Members serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by a simple majority vote of the Board with the Lead Pastor's consent. The Church Board and the Lead Pastor acting together may appoint a person to serve out the remaining term of a Board Member who has resigned or who is unable to continue to serve.

Section 3. Authority of the Church Board

The Church Board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. General Corporate Powers. Subject to the provisions and limitations of the Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law and any limitations in the Bylaws, the activities, business, and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Church Board.
2. Specific Authority. Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to same limitations, the Church Board shall have the power to do the following:
 - a. Nominate and remove members of the Church Board, except for the Lead Pastor; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, and with the Bylaws;
 - b. Adopt, make, and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal; and
 - c. It shall be responsible for reviewing the annual church budget.
 - d. Borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Church and cause to be executed and delivered for the Church's purposes and in the Church's name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities; and
 - e. Exercise all other powers conferred by the Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law or other applicable laws; and
 - f. Provide financial accountability and counsel for the Lead Pastor in church financial matters; and
 - g. Determine the compensation of the Lead Pastor; and
 - h. Conduct such other duties and activities as the Lead Pastor may request or designate from time to time. The Church Board shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life. They may assist the pastor in ministry as needed or requested and as their own gifts and abilities allow. They may set policies and determine purposes, and values.
 - i. Conflicts of Interest: Board members shall not be members of the paid pastoral staff. However, consideration may be given to credentialed Assemblies of God ministers who are also members of the church and not paid staff. The boards term of service shall not overlap that of an immediate family member serving on the Board. Whenever a board member or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Church Board the affected person shall (a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and (b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested board members determine that it is in the best interest of the church to do so. The

minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES AND PROPERTY

Section 1. Custody and Audit

All the funds of the church shall be under the responsibility of the Church Board who shall deposit them in a local bank. They shall oversee all disbursements. An audit or review can be conducted by an independent Certified Public Accountant when deemed prudent.

Section 2. Reports

The Treasurer of the Church Board shall submit a report at each regular board meeting and shall also submit an annual report to the congregation at their annual celebration meeting.

Section 3. Authority to Obligate

In addition to the Officers authorized by these Bylaws, the Board may authorize one or more employees or agents to legally bind the Corporation by signing and delivering contract, notes, deeds or other instruments on behalf of the Corporation. Authority may be general or may be limited to specific situations. No new loans may be contracted on behalf of the Corporation and no evidence of new indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Church Board. Authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 4. Salaries

1. The Lead Pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by agreement between the Lead Pastor and the Church Board.
2. The salaries of all members of the Pastoral Staff and other full or part-time employees shall be set by the Lead Pastor, with the advice and counsel of the Church Board.

Section 5. The Budget

1. The church shall operate on a unified budget.
2. Each department of the church shall be assigned an expenditure budget and shall operate its department within said budget. The budget will also provide contingency funds.
3. All moneys received in any or all departments for budgetary purposes shall be deposited with the church for the unified budget.
4. All moneys received by any or all departments for any purpose shall be properly accounted for and deposited with the church.

Section 6. Property

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

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH BOARD

Section 1. Place of Meetings

Regular or special meetings of the Church Board, may be held at any place within or outside the State of Georgia that has been designated. In the absence of such designation, meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Church. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone, or similar communication equipment, as long as all board members participating in the meeting can hear one another. All such board members shall be deemed to be present in person at such meeting.

Section 2. Board Meetings

The Church Board shall meet at convenient times for the transaction of official business for the church. The pastor and majority of board members shall constitute quorum.

Section 3. Special Meetings

1. Authority to Call. Special meetings of the Church Board may be called for any purpose and at any time by the Lead Pastor. No meetings of the Church Board shall be conducted without the President/Chairman, except in cases of incapacitation,
 2. Special Authority. The Church Board shall not hold meetings without the leadership of the Lead Pastor (or in the case of a vacancy of the Lead Pastor, the secretary of the Board), or District Officers, or without prior approval from the same.
2. Notice.
 - a. Manner of Giving. Notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be given to each board member by one of the following methods: (1) by personal delivery of written notice; (2) by first class mail, postage prepaid; (3) by telephone communication, either directly to the Board member or to a person at the board member's office or home who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate the notice to the board member; or (4) by electronic means (email, text, etc.)
 - b. Time Requirements. Notices sent by first class mail shall be deposited in the United States mail at least four (4) days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, digital communication, or email should be given at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time set for the meeting.
 - c. Notice Contents. The notice shall state the time and place for the meeting.

However, the notice does not need to specify the place of the meeting if the special meeting is to be held at the Church's principal office. The notice must specify the purpose of the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

A simple majority of current board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every action taken or decision made by a majority of the board members present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the church board and subject to the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the board members.

ARTICLE XI. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

1. Designation. There shall be a Lead Pastor (also known as President of the Corporation), a Secretary, and a Treasurer with qualifications, duties, manner of election or appointment, and terms of offices as set forth in this Article XI below.
2. President. The Lead Pastor shall be the President of the Corporation and Chairman of the Church Board.
3. Legal Officers. The Lead Pastor, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be the designated legal officers of the Corporation.
4. Minimum Age and Membership. All officers except for the office of Lead Pastor, shall be at least twenty-one years old, and have been members of the Church for at least one year.

Section 2. Term of Office

The Lead Pastor shall be elected by the members at a special called membership meeting. All other officers of the Church shall be appointed by the Church Board from among its members.

Section 3. Removal of Lead Pastor, Officers and Church Board Members

1. Lead Pastor. In addition to the approval of two-thirds of the Church Board, the Board shall be required to consult with and obtain approval from the leadership of the Georgia Assemblies of God before calling for a "Special Congregational Meeting" in which it shall be required to have a secret ballot vote of two-thirds of the Active voting members present for "Dismissing" the Lead Pastor, such meeting is to be presided over by a district officer of the Georgia Assemblies of God.

The Special Congregational Meeting may be held after not less than three weekly announcements in the bulletin, or on the video screens in the main sanctuaries or from the podium at all services providing notice to the congregation of the time, place and

purpose of the meeting, which shall be held at the time and place designated by the Board.

2. Other Officers. Officers may be removed, by a simple majority of the Church Board at any regular or special meeting of the Church Board.
3. Church Board Members Church board members may be removed by a simple majority of the Church Board at any regular or special meeting of the Church Board.

Section 4. Vacancies in Offices

1. Lead Pastor. When there is a vacancy in the pastorate, the Church Board shall appoint from the Board an interim Chairman until the election of a Lead Pastor. The Church Board shall act as or may delegate and appoint a nominating committee, after interviewing candidates, and careful and prayerful consideration, shall present one candidate to the Church for consideration as Lead Pastor. The election to the office shall be by a yes or no vote (See Article XI, Section 1). In case there is no election, the Church Board will continue interviewing candidates and present a new candidate to be voted upon in a succeeding meeting. Such meetings for election of a Lead Pastor shall be advertised as set forth in Article VII, Section 4.

The Church Board shall arrange for competent ministerial leadership to fill any vacancy involving the Lead Pastor's responsibilities until a permanent selection shall be made in the manner herein described.

2. Other Offices. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws. Such vacancies shall be filled as occur.

ARTICLE XII. LEADERSHIP AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Section 1. Lead Pastor

1. Qualifications
 - a. The Lead Pastor shall have been saved a sufficient number of years and have had experience enough that he shall have wisdom in the handling of Church affairs.
 - b. They shall have had sufficient education, both natural and spiritual, to be sound in doctrine and apt to teach.
 - c. They shall be of sufficient age to be mature in judgment.
 - d. They shall be required to be ordained with the Assemblies of God prior to being considered for the office of Lead Pastor.

2. Duties

- a. The Lead Pastor is designated in the scriptures as the head of the Church under the Lordship of the Lord Jesus and is referred to under the title “pastor” (Eph. 4:11), “overseer” (Acts 20:28), and “shepherd” (I Peter 5:2).
- b. The Lead Pastor shall be chairman of the Church Board and preside over all Annual Celebration Meetings or special called Church membership meetings.
- c. The Lead Pastor shall be the general supervisor of all activities of the Church and shall be an ex-officio member of all teams and committees.

3. Manner of Election

The Lead Pastor shall be elected to office by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active membership present and voting at any regular or special Church membership meeting.

4. Term of Office

The term of the Lead Pastor’s office shall be for an indefinite period; the term shall expire upon thirty-days’ notice given by the resignation of the Lead Pastor.

Section 2. Other Pastors and Employees

All Team Pastors, Associate or Assistant Pastors, paid Team Leaders and Team Members, and all other Church employees shall be hired or appointed, and compensation will be determined by the Lead Pastor in consultation with the church board. The Lead Pastor shall conduct annual performance evaluations and review the call and compensation of each employee unless they have otherwise delegated this authority and responsibility.

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, board member, 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, based on 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 basis on 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 decide the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least 5 days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors. The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state which may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act. If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the church, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

ARTICLE XIV. INDEMNIFICATION

The corporation has the power to indemnify (including the power to advance expenses to) its board members, officers, employees, and agents made a party to a legal proceeding, as defined in local or state laws. However, no such indemnity shall indemnify any such board member, officer, employee, or agent from or on account of: (1) acts or omissions of such board member, officer, employee, or agent finally adjudged to be intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law; or (2) any transaction with respect to which it was finally adjudged that such board member, officer, employee, or agent personally received a benefit in money, property, or services to which such person was not legally entitled.

ARTICLE XV. EMERGENCY POWERS

Section 1. Definition

The members of this church recognize that times of national or local emergency may occur, making it impossible to fulfill all of the requirements of these Bylaws or the church Articles of Incorporation. Times of national, state, or local emergency may be called by the president of the

United States or the governor of Georgia, or the local, regional, county, or city government due to natural disaster (earthquake, tidal wave, volcano, flood, storm, etc.), pandemic, war, civil unrest, or any seen or unseen emergency of significance.

Section 2. Circumstances

In the event of any emergency as described in Section 1 above, making it impossible to conduct business or services as usual for this church, including any board or membership business meetings, the official, or remaining available members of the Board, shall be empowered to act as fiduciaries of this church to ensure the continuation of services and business in the most feasible, safe, legal, and prudent manner, as good stewards holding to biblical values as outlined in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Process Steps

a. Upon such an emergency declaration, making it impossible to conduct normal business or services as usual, and pursuant to applicable emergency powers or bylaws of Georgia regarding emergency bylaws, the remaining active Church Board shall act special emergency bylaws and powers as needed to accommodate such an emergency.

b. By majority vote of the remaining Board, they shall be granted emergency power to draft and enact any emergency bylaw provision pursuant to the aforementioned state laws. These emergency bylaws may bypass any and all of the current church bylaws as needed in order to comply with all federal and state requirements and/or regulations pertaining to meetings or other accompanying standard operating procedure business of the church such as elections and meetings of any kind.

c. These emergency bylaws and powers will empower the Board and members of this church to act in any legal, biblical, reasonable and prudent manner they deem necessary to conduct such business that may conflict with current church bylaw provisions or requirements, including, but not limited to normal business operations, providing for congregational services and community care, the suspension of an annual business meeting and/or other regular business until such a time as the current emergency is resolved and emergency measures are lifted.

d. Once the emergency crisis is declared over by a declaration of the government and/or the church Board (after consulting with church legal counsel if possible), then standard operating procedures for business and compliance with regular church bylaws and operations will resume.

ARTICLE XVI. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Reversion

In the event that the church herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the Georgia Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Macon, Georgia; and who is affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Springfield, Missouri. The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property by the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived there from shall be used by the said District Council in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

Section 2. Authority of Council

The District Council shall have full authority to sell or dispose of such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Georgia District under the direction of the District Presbytery upon dissolution.

Section 3. Section 501(c)(3) Purposes Only

In the event the District Council is unable or unwilling to accept the transfer of all the property of this Church, then the remaining property shall be transferred to an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code whose purposes are nearest the purposes of the General Council, which transfer shall be made by the remaining trustees and custodians of the property or, if necessary, by the appropriate court in Gwinett County, Georgia.

ARTICLE XVII. RECORDS AND REPORTS

The Church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records); and
2. Written minutes of the proceedings of the church board; and
3. A record of the members of the Church, setting forth the members' names and addresses; and
4. Contribution statements for contributors.

ARTICLE XVIII. CONSTRUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

Unless the context requires otherwise, the general provisions, rules of construction, and definitions in the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIX. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Section 1. Recommendation by Church Board

The Church Board will recommend proposed amendments of these Bylaws to the membership, at a celebration meeting or special meetings of the membership.

Section 2. Notice

The notice of the regular or special meeting at which a proposed amendment will be considered must state that the purpose or one of the purposes of the meeting is to consider the proposed amendment and must contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the amendment.

Section 3. Approval by Membership

The voting membership must approve any amendment by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present and voting at any regular or special church membership meeting. Note: Only those members present and whose names appear on the active membership roster shall have the right to cast a vote. Absentee ballots or voting by proxy shall not be accepted.

Section 4. Written Consent or Ballot

The Church Board may determine, by a majority vote of its members, to submit the proposed amendment to the Church's voting membership for approval by written consent or written ballot. In such event, the material soliciting the approval shall contain or be accompanied by a copy or a summary of the proposed amendment.