



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Constitution</u>	Page
Affiliation.....	4
Amendments.....	15D
Departments and Committees.....	13
Finances.....	14
Government.....	10
Meetings.....	12
Membership.....	9
Name.....	3
Ordinances.....	8
Officers.....	10
Preamble.....	2
Prerogatives.....	3
Property.....	14
Right of Intervention.....	13
Tenets of Faith.....	4

Bylaws

Amendments.....	26
Christian School.....	24
Duties of Officers.....	16
Elections and Vacancies.....	17
Membership.....	19
Men's Department.....	23
Military Service.....	22
Order of Business.....	26
Sunday School.....	22
Women's Ministries Department.....	24
Youth Department.....	23

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Adopted this 16th day of January, 1980/Revised the 27th day of January, 1988. Revised 6/92. Revised 7/96.

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose names appear upon the assembly roster do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and Arizona District Council, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Assembly shall be Grace Assembly of God of the city of Parker, State of Arizona.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

SECTION 1. This assembly 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 Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:3,13

SECTION 2. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it 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 constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Arizona District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters located at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

This assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures and the revealed will of God, 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, to wit:

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 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. THE ONE TRUE GOD

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

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 (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35)
- (B) His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22)
- (C) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38)
- (D) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- (E) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4)
- (F) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 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 (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 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; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(B) The Evidences of Salvation

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

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. (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4)

(B) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements--bread and 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 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes!"

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 Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the world of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Cor. 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 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; Heb. 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 for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. THE 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 (1 Cor. 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 (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The

Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost, 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 (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:15).

10. THE CHURCH

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 (Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

11. THE MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose: 1) The evangelization of the world, and 2) The edifying of the Body of Christ (Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-13).

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 (Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

13. THE BLESSED HOPE

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 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 (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27-30; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezek. 37:21, 22 Zeph. 3:19, 20; Rom. 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa. 11:6-9; Ps. 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 (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

SECTION 1. The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

SECTION 2. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership Eligibility. Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith, attending a minimum of 6 months, and agree to be governed by its constitution and by-laws as herein set forth.

(A) Voting Membership

The voting membership of the church shall consist of all persons born of the spirit, in good standing, who shall have met the membership requirements of the church and who subscribe regularly to its financial support, and whose names shall appear on the church roster. All voting members shall be at least 18 years of age. No member of the church under charges in writing and signed by the pastor and official board shall have the right to vote.

(B) Junior Membership

The junior membership shall be non-voting and composed of all persons as members of the church between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age.

(C) Inactive Membership

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, and who cease to contribute of their means to its support, who may be out of harmony with its teachings for its ministries, or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers.

(D) Associate Membership

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate members by a majority vote. Eligibility for associate membership is available to any person who is a member in good standing of a church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular members, except that they shall not be eligible for any of the offices.

(E) Honorary Membership

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

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of this church shall consist of a pastor or overseer, a secretary and treasurer, three trustees, three deacons (when warranted and proper candidates scripturally qualified exist in the church). Deacons may serve as trustees.

SECTION 2. The Official Board
The pastor, secretary, and treasurer, together with the board of deacons and/or the board of trustees shall constitute the official board. The action of this board shall be advisory to the pastor.

SECTION 3. Deacons
The deacons shall ordinarily be three in number unless the growth of the church warrants a larger number. They shall be men full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, sound in faith, of good report, who shall qualify according to scriptural demands (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1).

SECTION 4. Board of Trustees
The board of trustees shall ordinarily be three members. They shall be men of good report, sound Christian character, and good judgment. They shall be a pattern in good works and manner of Christian life and experience.

SECTION 5. All officers of this church shall be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of ballots cast and be a member of good standing for at least one year prior to election.

ARTICLE VIII. GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1. Jurisdiction and Sovereignty

This church is recognized as being locally sovereign pertaining to such affairs which only directly affect and are related to this local church. It shall be the

highest court of appeal over such matters as only directly affect its own welfare. It shall be governed by the agreements, decisions and policies determined by the whole, as revealed by the District Council and General Council in all affairs which affect the unity of the fellowship. In respect to this relationship, its sovereignty shall be democratic. It shall be in agreement with those matters which are covered by agreements and decisions reached by the District Council and General Council.

SECTION 2. Legislative Action

(A) All legislative action involving the welfare and union of all the churches in the fellowship of which this church is a part, shall be only exercised by all the churches in council together, assembled as represented by the General and District Councils to the end that unity of action may prevail in and among all the churches.

(B) Any legislative action necessary to determine the policies which only directly affect and are only directly related to this local church shall be vested in the church as a whole. No individual or a separate group of individuals may exercise such a prerogative. In matters of legislative action, all boards or committees are subject to the church and its pastor, and shall only function in an advisory capacity.

SECTION 3. The Pastor

(A) The pastor shall be the administrative head and overseer of this church. He, in accord with the officary, shall direct its affairs and be personally responsible to this church and to the General and District Councils for the execution of scriptural policy. The pastor shall be directly responsible, alone, to the church as a whole, and the District and General Council of which he is a member.

(B) The pastor shall be chairman of the business sessions of the church except as stated in Article IX, Section 3 and Article X, and ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church. No board or committee

shall function except the pastor be present, or if he is not present, by his written authority or permission.

(C) The pastor being directly responsible to the church as its administrative head and overseer, no board, committee or group should take to themselves the unscriptural right to supersede the authority vested in the scriptural office of duties of the pastor, neither to come between the direct relationship of the pastor to the congregation itself. The scriptural meaning of

the word "pastor" being shepherd (Eph. 4:11), bishop (1 Tim. 3:1), or overseer (Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1, 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2), and being of Divine appointment, these prerogatives shall not be delegated to laymen.

(D) If for some reason the church shall be unable to elect a pastor after a vacancy in the pastorate for sixty days, the district superintendent may be called upon to fill the vacated pastorate and the pastor named shall fill the office for one year.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the pastor and the official board.

SECTION 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be read. The business meeting shall be held during the first quarter of the year with the time and place to be set and announced by the pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

SECTION 3. Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the pastor or by the secretary of the assembly provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the official board. Special meetings may also be called by petition, having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the pastor or the secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays

immediately prior to the date of meeting, or five days by mail prior to the meeting. If a condition shall arise in the church that cannot be rectified, the district officary may give assistance when at least one-third of the voting membership petitions them.

SECTION 4. Quorum

(A) The voting membership of this church which may respond to the call of the pastor or church after proper announcement has been made as herein stipulated, shall constitute a quorum.

(B) A majority of members responding to a call shall constitute a quorum in any board or committee.

SECTION 5. The official board, with the pastor, shall meet regularly for the transaction of routine business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the pastor.

ARTICLE X. RIGHT OF INTERVENTION

If the pastor, or the church, does not comply with the tenets set forth by the General Council herein, as well as the by-laws, the district officary of the District Council shall direct the secretary of the church to call a meeting of the church to protect the rights of either the minority or majority that does desire to adhere to these agreements.

ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The assembly shall provide for the establishment of a Sunday School Department, Youth Department, Women's Ministries Department, and Men's Department. Home and Foreign Missions Committees and any other departments or committees may be appointed by the pastor as needs may require.

SECTION 2. Relationship. All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and the official church board, and the pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided for by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the pastor and the official board and shall be administered by the treasurer as directed by the official board (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).

ARTICLE XIII. PROPERTY

SECTION 1. All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name. No property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a voice of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

SECTION 2. In the event that the assembly herein mentioned ceases to function as an Assembly of God Church, then the said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the Arizona District Council, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Phoenix, Arizona. The deed shall contain the following reversion clause: "In the event that the grantee herein shall cease to be an

Assembly of God Church in good standing with the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God or its successor, the herein described real property

16

shall forthwith revert to the grantor upon the determination by the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God or its successor that the grantee is no longer in good standing. This provision may be waived in writing by the grantor." The Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived therefrom shall be used by the said Arizona District Council in furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all church services on a least two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting. Such amendments shall not be in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Arizona District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the board of trustees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

SECTION 2. Duties of Deacons

(A) The board of deacons shall be authorized to perform such duties as are required of them by the pastor and the church. The principle of loyalty must be held inviolate by all church officers, to the end that they shall be a pattern for the rest of the church to follow. The office of a deacon shall in no wise be considered as an administrative or legislative office, but one of service and assistance, inasmuch as the office of a deacon is not above that of an elder, but subjective to it. In matters of administration, the deacon shall serve in an advisory capacity.

(B) The board of deacons shall act in an advisory capacity to the pastor in matters which pertain to the welfare of the church, its spiritual life, and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall act with the pastor in passing upon the eligibility of applicants for membership and also, if necessary, in the exercise of discipline (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1).

SECTION 3. Trustees

The board of Trustees shall be the custodians of the church property and shall be interested in the care of the same, working in cooperation with the pastor and church. They shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand, subject to the call of the pastor, who shall serve as chairman.

SECTION 4. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the official board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He/She shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties. He/She shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal (where the assembly is incorporated).

SECTION 5. The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly which may be committed to him/her. He/She shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the assembly, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the official board. The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He/She shall make a report at the regular meetings of the official board and give an itemized report at the annual business meetings the accounts shall be audited under the direction of the pastor and official church board.

ARTICLE II. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

SECTION 1. The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term of office. The official church board shall nominate him. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Only one name shall be placed in nomination and be voted on before another name is considered. The pastor, bi-annually at the regular business meeting shall take a vote of confidence

SECTION 2. The secretary and the treasurer shall be elected annually. They shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly and may be nominated by a nominating committee, and shall be elected by a two-third

majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year from the time of election, or until their successors are elected.

SECTION 3. The board of deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly. They may be nominated by a nominating committee, or from the floor and shall be elected by a two-thirds majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one to three years, respectively, from the time of election or until their successors are elected.

SECTION 4. The trustees shall be nominated by a nominating committee or from the floor, and shall be elected by a two-thirds majority vote at the annual business meeting of the assembly. Their terms of office shall be for one to three years, respectively, from the time of election or until their successors are elected.

SECTION 5. Vacancies

(A) Pastor

When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, the secretary shall communicate with the district superintendent, and it is recommended that the district superintendent and the official board of the church cooperate in furnishing candidates for the office of the pastorate. After a candidate has been approved, a special election shall be called and if the result of the balloting gives the candidate a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, he shall stand elected.

(1) In case of any vacancy in any office, the pastor and official board shall fill such vacancy by appointment and the term of office shall continue until the next annual meeting of the church.

(2) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of the pastor if concurred by a majority of the official board of the church.

Grounds for such action shall be:

1. Unscriptural conduct
2. radical departure from the tenets of faith
3. Incompetency in office
4. Lack of cooperation
5. For any other good and sufficient cause

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The Standard of Membership

The standard of membership of this church shall be:

(A) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth) (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).

(B) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Rom. 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7).

(C) To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in Article IV of the Constitution.

(D) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his or her ability by tithes and offerings.

(E) Willingness to cooperative, submissive, humble and Christlike as the Scriptures enjoin.

(F) To have attended regularly for 3 months.

(G) A willingness to serve in the ministries of the church.

SECTION 2. Reception of Members

(A) Persons desiring to become active members of the church shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership (See Article VI, Section 1, Constitution).

(B) The pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the official board, who shall act upon said recommendation and with him render a final decision., All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably, shall be received into the church publicly at any of the regular church services, and their names inscribed on the church roster, and the roster shall clearly indicate whether the member shall be recognized as a legal voting member or as a junior member (Article VI, Constitution), and the person's name, date of admittance, and address shall be inscribed on the roster.

SECTION 3. Discipline

(A) Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself/herself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, shall be moved to inactive status. Any member who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case.

(B) 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 (Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor 5:11; Gal. 1:8, 9; Titus 3:1-15).

SECTION 4. Members in good standing who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the pastor and official board, said letter to be signed by the pastor and the secretary of the assembly.

SECTION 5. The pastor and official church board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the assembly at least annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn or transferred from the fellowship. Those who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly, shall be dismissed. The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Thess. 3:6-15).

If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the pastor and official church board through the secretary. If appeal is made to the board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the assembly, by a majority vote shall be considered final.

SECTION 6. No person who is a member of this church shall be engaged in any activity that tends to draw into outside activities the members of this church, which has not received the sanction of the pastor, and if necessary, the official church board.

No member of this church shall morally support private enterprises or activities which involve the membership of this church and over which this

church has no control or which have not been sanctioned, such as private prayer meetings, etc. If any additional service is desired which is not already provided for, such additional service must have the sanction of the church and the pastor, and must be in full subjective cooperation with it.

SECTION 7. Worldliness

In view of alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 John 2:15, 16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against: participation in activity which defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of, or preoccupation with, pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34, 35; Rom. 8:5-8; 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

SECTION 8. Divorce and Remarriage

(A) Membership

(1) There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Cor. 7:17, 20, 24).

(2) We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

(B) 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 positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matt. 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light of God's Word (1 Cor. 7:15, 27, 28).

(C) Local Church Membership

Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop or elder and deacon, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified, be made available to them.

ARTICLE IV. MILITARY SERVICE

As a Movement, we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose for himself whether to declare his position as a combatant, a non-combatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE V. SUNDAY SCHOOL

SECTION 1. There shall be a Sunday School conducted as a department of the church activities under the general oversight of the pastor.

SECTION 2. The basic concepts which serve as the operational guide to the Sunday School shall be as outlined in the National Sunday School Department's pamphlet "Sunday School Philosophy".

SECTION 3. The official church board shall appoint the superintendent of the Sunday School from among the members of the church, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole. The pastor and the Sunday School superintendent shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers and other workers of the Sunday School and in consultation with the workers of the school, determine all policies and programs of the school.

ARTICLE VI. YOUTH DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1. There shall be a youth group, known as the Youth Department, conducted as a department of the church activities under the general supervision of the pastor.

SECTION 2. The suggested Constitution and By-Laws for local Youth Groups, as published by the National Youth Department, shall be the basis of operation for this youth group.

SECTION 3. The pastor shall have the right to appoint a youth director (or sponsor) to assist him in the general supervision of the Youth Department. The Youth Group shall have the right to elect its own officers. All policies and programs of the Youth Department shall be formulated by this executive Youth committee: pastor, youth director, president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

SECTION 4. All Youth officers shall be members or junior members of the church.

ARTICLE VII. MEN'S DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1. There shall be a Men's Department conducted as a department of the local church, and it shall be under the general oversight of the pastor.

SECTION 2. The basic program of the men's Department shall follow the order of the National Men's Department, which sets forth three divisions: Action Crusades, Light for the Lost, and Royal Rangers.

SECTION 3. The pastor, in consultation with the church board, shall appoint the local coordinator from among the members of the church. The pastor and the coordinator shall have the right to appoint the Action Crusades president, the Light for the Lost chairman, the senior commander

for the Royal Rangers and such other persons as may be needed to carry out the outreaches of the Men's Department. These persons, with the pastor and coordinator, will determine all policies and programs of the Men's Department.

ARTICLE VIII. WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

SECTION 1. There shall be a Women's Ministry conducted as a department of the local church under the general supervision of the pastor.

SECTION 2. The suggested constitution and By-Laws for the local WM Groups, as published by the Nation WM Department, shall be the basis of operation for this group.

SECTION 3. All officers shall be chosen from the active membership of WM's. They shall be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

ARTICLE IX. CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SECTION 1. Name

The name of this preschool shall be Sonshine Christian Academy, formerly known as First Assembly of God Christian Developmental Preschool.

SECTION 2. Affiliation

The school shall operate as a department of Grace Assembly of God.

SECTION 3. Tenets of Faith

(A) The tenets of faith shall be the Sixteen Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God.

(B) Because of the diversity of denominations represented among the students and the young age of students, every effort will be made to teach "basic Christian principles" and introduce the students to the person, Jesus Christ, God's Son.

SECTION 4. Officers

(A) The school, as a department of Grace Assembly of God, shall be under direct supervision of the pastor and official church board.

(B) There shall be a director of the preschool appointed by the pastor and official church board.

(C) There shall be adequate, qualified staff hired by the pastor, official church board and director. Staff, whenever possible, shall be members in good standing of Grace Assembly of God.

(D) The director or staff may appeal any decision of the board at a regular board meeting called specifically for that purpose.

(E) Any parent of a student may appeal any decision of the board at a regular board meeting or meeting called specifically for that purpose.

SECTION 5. Finances

(A) Finances of the preschool shall be reported each month by the director at the regularly scheduled church board meeting through a financial statement listing all receipts, disbursements and beginning/ending balances for the month.

(B) All changes in salary, as well as purchases beyond \$200.00, shall be approved by the pastor and official church board.

(C) The church may, from time to time, render additional financial aid to the school as necessary, but only after all efforts to operate within the budget have been made.

ARTICLE X. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

1. Devotional
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Report of Committees and Departments
5. Unfinished Business
6. Election of Officers
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a two-thirds vote of the membership present.