

By laws

Constitution

Apostolic Assembly
of the
Faith in Christ Jesus

2012

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Presentation of the 2012 Edition

**“Let all things be done decently and in order.”
1 Corinthians 14:40**

The Revisory Commission designated by the General Board for the 2010-2014 administrative period, feels honored to assume its responsibilities for the present term before the Honorable General Board and the Honorable Ministerial Body of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus. We express our thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the ministerial body of our Assembly as a whole for the confidence placed upon us to serve our Church in this special task.

Respectfully, This edition executes the proposed-initiatives which received initial resolution during our General Conventions of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, which then followed through the process of study and recommendations made by the General Board of Directors and the Joint Bishops Meetings, and received the final approval during the General Convention at Anaheim, CA., on the September 24-28, 2012.

All proposed-initiatives were equally and properly scrutinized, and special care has been duly taken to make sure that the approved proposals are accurately integrated into the text of our Constitution. With this same diligence we will continue making certain that every recommendation made by the General Board of Directors and the Joint Bishops Meetings, should reach our Pastoral body in a true and correctly written form at our General Convention Ministerial Meetings, and others that may apply.

Exalt Christ, Equip the Church and Evangelize the World

Fraternally in Christ Jesus:

**The Revisory Commission
October 2012, Rancho Cucamonga, California.**

INTRODUCTION

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” 1 Corinthians 12:25

I. From its beginnings, the Primitive Church faced the need to have clear standards to guide pastors with the care of their churches. The need for specific statutes became even more pressing due to differences among nations in language, laws, and culture, and to the emergence of apostate movements with false doctrines.

To address this need, there emerged in the second century of the Christian era the “Rules of Faith” and several “Pastoral Letters,” which were written documents to guide pastors in matters of doctrine, discipline, sacraments, organization, and worship in churches.

II. Eighteen centuries later, the Holy Spirit guided the heart of our patriarch, the late Bishop President Antonio C. Nava, who from the start insisted with indelible resolve on the need to have the most adequate organizational system, along with its respective bylaws for the church to fulfill its duty. Thus, our Apostolic Assembly was registered in 1930 with its initial articles of incorporation, in accordance with the laws of the state of California. What happened later is history.

III. The members of the Apostolic Assembly have always believed that:

1. The Word of God is our rule of faith, and is the highest and final authority (Matthew 24:35).
2. Our Constitution flows from the Word of God and that every new proposal or amendment must be forged under the light of the Holy Scriptures (Ephesians 2:20).
3. Being faithful to the dynamic guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Constitution must respond to the needs and challenges of the apostolic congregations in the United States of America and the missionary field, as we face the 21st century (John 16:13).
4. Our bylaws are written practice; that is, we practice what we believe, and we believe what we practice.
5. Only God is perfect. The Church and Constitution are perfectible, and can and should improve always. Our constitutional standards are neither finished nor untouchable products, but dynamic instruments, appropriate to the church. Like the body of Christ, these instruments are not an organization, but a living organism (Philippians 3:13-14).

IV. Some of the main goals of our Constitution are:

1. THE WELL-BEING OF THE CHURCH.

Through obedience to its biblically inspired norms, the Constitution aims to create a healthy organizational environment, where respect, love, and mutual assistance stimulate the spiritual, numerical, and economic growth of apostolic congregations (Ephesians 4:16).

The Constitution does not intend to create a poisonous and suffocating bureaucracy, but rather the order of God that protects and nurtures the spiritual health of local churches.

2. THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH.

To protect the unity of the Church from the continuous attacks of the enemy, which attempt to weaken, distract, or discredit it (John 17:23).

3. THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE CHURCH.

To keep the life and thoughts of the Apostolic Assembly centered on Christ. Our worship, evangelism, Christian education, and social service should be Christ-centered (1 Corinthians 3:11).

4. THE LEGALITY OF THE CHURCH.

To provide a legal framework for churches to develop their ministries in fulfillment of federal, state, county, and local laws of the United States of America. This framework also promotes respect for the laws of each country with missionary works.

V. We believe that the churches in the missionary field, along with the congregations of the United States of America, form the Church of the Lord. Therefore, this Constitution also serves as a standard and model for our brethren abroad.

VI. WE RECOMMEND THAT:

1. Each member of the General Board of Directors, as well as supervising bishops and district board members, should always carry a copy of this Constitution in their briefcases. In addition, all pastors, evangelists, assistant pastors, co-pastors, and ministers should keep a copy on their desks.
2. All ministers review the constitutional text at least once a year.
3. All candidates to be initiated or ordained to the ministry should be required to have completely read the current Constitution.

The value and strength of our Constitution requires that each of us complies with it and enforces its compliance.

We pray to the Lord that He enlighten and enable each apostolic heart to revalue our bylaws, a blessed heritage.

Revisory Commission

October 2012, Rancho Cucamonga, California.

CONSTITUTION OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

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FIRST CHAPTER

TITLE AND PURPOSES OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 1

This Corporation shall be known as:

APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

The Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus is a non profit organization, incorporated under de laws of the state of California in the United States of America, on March 15, 1930.

Hereafter the words "Apostolic Assembly" shall be used in this Constitution in reference to this corporation.

ARTICLE 2

The Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus has been organized for the following purposes:

- I. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to practice the doctrine according to the Apostolic order for the regeneration and salvation of souls.
- II. To bring all the existing churches or congregations that are in accord with these principles of doctrine, organization, and economy, under one title.
- III. To organize according to the bylaws in this Constitution the churches being established or those that join the Apostolic Assembly, upon accepting the doctrinal principles, the organization and economic system.
- IV. To maintain spiritual fellowship among all members that form the Apostolic Assembly, and to promote growth and the expansion of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in the United States of America and in other parts of the world. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 2:20).
- V. To seek, by any possible means, mutual help and protection among all of its members in order to promote, to the highest degree, their spiritual, moral, and social lives to Christianity and brotherly love (Hebrews 13:1-2).
- VI. To select, train and ordain the necessary ministers and missionaries to establish and oversee churches that are formed in accordance with the Word of God. Bible schools and colleges shall also be established for the preparation of ministers and teachers.
- VII. To fulfill the goals of the previous clause, the Apostolic Assembly shall acquire and administer the necessary properties, according to the laws of each country with regards to religious matters.

SECOND CHAPTER

ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 3

I. To govern and direct this religious corporation, a General Board of Directors shall be elected at a General Electoral Convention. The General Board of Directors shall be comprised of:

A Bishop President, a Bishop Vice-President, a Bishop General Secretary, a Bishop General Treasurer, a Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions, a Bishop Secretary of National Missions, a Bishop Secretary of Christian Education and a Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance.

II. No person shall hold more than one position on the General Board of Directors.

III. The elected members of the General Board of Directors will function for a period of four years from the date of their election, or until their successors are elected. At the end of each term, and in a General Electoral Convention, a new election shall be held. The new officers will take possession of their position immediately after the conclusion of the convention in which they were elected.

IV. When a supervising bishop is elected to a position on the General Board of Directors, he shall have a maximum of one year to relinquish all responsibilities as a supervisor of his district.

In the Apostolic Assembly a minister may only serve as:

1. Pastor and member of the General Board of Directors, or
2. Pastor and bishop of a district.

METHOD OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 4

I. The General Board of Directors, or a committee named by the board, will prepare the program for the General Electoral Convention: stating the date, time and place of elections. This information will be made known to the church in general with adequate time prior to the elections.

II. A day prior to the elections, the General Board of Directors will appoint an Electoral Committee, comprised of five or seven qualified ministerial members, which will preside over the elections during the entire period of time that the election of the General Board of Directors may require. It will deliver the results of the election to the incumbent General Board of Directors, which then will proceed to carry on the work of the convention that remains to be done.

III. The following will have the right to vote: Members of the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly, district bishops, elders, foreign missionaries, national missionaries, and a representative of each established church, who should be the pastor or the person in charge of the work. Should the Pastor be unable to attend the General Convention, for justified reasons, he shall send in his stead, his co-pastor, assistant pastor or an ordained minister as a duly authorized representative. Furthermore, the members of the General Board of Directors may grant ex-members of the General Board of Directors, emeritus bishops, national evangelists and ex-pastors, who for justified reasons may not be working as pastors but are in total fellowship, the right to vote. All voters, without exception, must have current ministerial credentials.

IV. Two Sundays prior to elections, all ministers will present themselves in a day of prayer and fasting.

V. The election will be held in the following order: 1) Bishop President, 2) Bishop Vice-President, 3) Bishop General Secretary, 4) Bishop General Treasurer, 5) Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions, 6) Bishop Secretary of National Missions, 7) Bishop Secretary of Christian Education and 8) Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance.

VI. The selection of candidates for the eight positions of the General Board of Directors will be done by secret ballot.

VII. To make the selection for each position, the ministry in attendance will write on the secret ballot the name of one candidate.

VIII. The Electoral Committee will gather all the ballots, tally them and present the results to the Qualifying Committee.

IX. The names of the ministers that were approved as candidates will be made known by the Electoral Committee to the electoral assembly.

X. The President of the Electoral Committee will present the candidates to the electoral assembly and then there will be a prayer for the candidates.

XI. And then, each voting minister will write, in the corresponding ballot, the name of the candidate of his choice. XII. The Electoral Committee will tally the votes and announce the results to the electoral assembly, and present the elected candidate.

XIII. If in the criterion of the Qualifying Committee, there is a tie between candidates, an eliminatory election will be held until the tie is broken.

XIV. If there should be a tie in the final election, the voting process will be repeated three times. If a tie remains, the election shall be decided by the casting of lots.

XV. When a candidate, who has been selected, does not wish to run for office, he has the right to decline, after having been presented and before he has been prayed for.

XVI. When a candidate wishes to decline, it should be done privately before the Qualifying Committee and only be announced to the electoral assembly if accepted by the Committee.

XVII. Once the declining candidate's decision has been accepted, a new selection for a candidate shall be made.

XVIII. A simple majority shall be sufficient for a candidate to become elected to any position. Ministers not in attendance shall have no rights to present objections.

XIX. No minister will be eligible to be proposed as candidate to a position previously held for eight years.

XX. The members of the General Board of Directors may be elected for the same position for two consecutive terms.

**QUALIFYING COMMITTEE
ITS ELECTION**

ARTICLE 5

Prior to the General Board elections, the General Board of Directors and the District Bishops in office shall meet to elect the Qualifying Committee, which will be comprised of two members of the General Board of Directors, three district bishops in office, and two pastors, which will be named. The process is as follows:

1. The General Board will elect by secret vote two members of the General Board. The Board members receiving the most votes shall participate in the Qualifying Committee. A separate election will be held for each Board member. The votes are to be counted by the two most senior bishops in office. In case of a tie, the election shall be decided by casting of lots.
2. The highest-ranking member of the two elected Board members will act as Chairperson of the Qualifying Committee.
3. The Episcopal Body in full session shall elect three district bishops in office by secret vote. The votes are to be counted by the two General Board members that were elected. The bishop that receives the most votes shall participate in the Qualifying Committee. A separate election shall be held for each bishop. In case of a tie, the election shall be decided by casting of lots.
4. The General Board members and bishops elected shall name two active and senior pastors to participate in the Qualifying Committee. All other active or former members of the General Board and Bishops are not eligible for these duties.

**QUALIFYING COMMITTEE
ITS FUNCTION**

II. The Qualifying Committee shall consider those ministers, who have received a greater number of votes as to their capabilities, qualities, and their rights, and shall approve two to five of them as candidates.

From these, the assembly of pastors shall select, through their vote, until one of them is elected by a simple majority and if there are no constitutional objections.

III. Whenever one of the nominees receives two thirds or more of the votes cast, which in this case constitutes an overwhelming majority, and is approved by the Qualifying Committee, that body shall notify the Electoral Committee so that the candidate can be declared elected for the position to which he was nominated. These decisions shall always be made in accordance with the criterion set forth by this Constitution.

IV. If the Qualifying Committee determines that the persons nominated do not meet the qualifications of the present Constitution, or lack the capabilities, qualities or the right to be proposed as nominees, the Committee shall order a new selection.

V. After the candidates have been announced and before they are presented in prayer, if there are any objections against any one of them, the elections will be suspended until the objector presents his objection privately before the Qualifying Committee. The objection must be credible

and evidence must be provided in order for the Qualifying Committee to suspend the election of a candidate. Should this occur, the Qualifying Committee can select another candidate, next in line, with the majority votes and who fulfills all the requirements, or order that a new election be held. No objections nor discussion will be presented before the assembly.

VI. If any member of the Qualifying Committee is proposed as a nominee and would like to participate in the elections, he must temporarily withdraw from the Committee, so that the rest of the members may deliberate. He may return to occupy his position at the end of the deliberation.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 6

I. In order to figure as a candidate for Bishop President, it is required that he be an active minister, capable of supervising. Having satisfactorily completed at least one four-year term as a district bishop or served satisfactorily as a member on the General Board of Directors for two complete terms of four years each. In addition he must actively be serving at the time of the election in one of the positions mentioned, including sector elder or as a pastor.

II. In order to figure as a candidate for the position of Bishop Vice-president, all of the requirements listed to be a candidate for Bishop President must be met.

III. Whenever the law requires, the candidate must be a citizen of the country in which he will fulfill his function.

IV. In order to figure as a candidate for the other positions, it is required that the person have been a member of the General Board of Directors, a district bishop or sector elder, and at least hold a pastorate at the time of the election.

V. In addition to these requirements each candidate must be approved by the Qualifying Committee as established in Article 5 of this Constitution.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 7

I. He shall represent the Apostolic Assembly and will exercise his authority at any time and place when necessary, for the care and the supervision of the whole church. His authority extends to the foreign mission fields dependent on the Apostolic Assembly. The Bishop President shall visit all districts as often as needed and whenever possible in order to be personally informed about the state of the Church and to instruct what should be done in each case.

II. He shall see that all district bishops and members of the General Board of Directors faithfully fulfill their duties.

III. He shall preside over the General Conventions, General Board of Directors meetings, Joint Meetings and Episcopal Meetings. When, for any justifiable reason, he is unable to attend any activity that he should preside, he shall delegate to the Bishop Vice-President or any other member of the General Board of Directors to represent him.

IV. He shall attend the district conventions to advise the district bishops in those matters that require it or delegate the Bishop Vice-President or any other member of the General Board of Directors to represent him.

V. He shall be the General Advisor of the Board of Directors of the National Confederations of Apostolic Men, Women “Dorcas”, Messengers of Peace and the Junior Messengers of Peace.

VI. The Bishop President, with a commission from the General Board of Directors, which he shall designate, shall meet annually or when deemed necessary, with the National Confederation Boards, to orientate and organize their work plans.

VII. He shall represent the Apostolic Assembly on all official business matters, or delegate his representation to the appropriate person or persons.

VIII. He shall sign jointly with the Bishop General Secretary, all credentials, licenses, certificates of ordination, certificates of initiation, designations and other documents that require their signatures.

IX. He shall require that each district bishop and each member of the General Board of Directors inform him of their activities as frequently as deemed necessary.

X. He shall give a report of his administration, including statistical data before the General Conventions. He shall give a report of his activities before ordinary meetings of the General Board of Directors.

XI. He shall require that all agreements of the General Conventions, General Board of Directors, Joint Meetings and Episcopal Meetings are fulfilled. If an agreement is not fulfilled, he will state the reasons

why the agreement was not carried out at a General Convention or a meeting of the General Board of Directors.

XII. The Bishop President, together with the rest of the General Board of Directors, shall develop working plans and an annual budget and present them to the General Convention for their study and approval or to the Joint Meeting whenever there is no General Convention.

XIII. He shall relinquish the position to his successor at the end of the Convention in which the latter was elected and will turn over all the effects that are in his possession, to the elected Bishop President.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE BISHOP PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 8

I. If more than six months remain of a district bishop’s term and he dies, resigns or is removed from office, the Bishop President shall convene all the voting ministers of that district and will conduct an election of a district bishop to complete the unexpired term.

II. When less than six months remain in a term, the Bishop President shall call a meeting of the General Board of Directors in order to appoint a district bishop to fulfill the unexpired term.

III. He may call the attention of the members of the General Board of Directors and the supervising bishops regarding the fulfillment of their duties.

IV. He may request before the General Board of Directors the removal of those officers of the Confederations of Men, Women, Youth and Juniors that are not fulfilling their obligations or for any other justified reason that the officers cannot, or should not, maintain their positions.

V. He can decide the distribution of the accumulated funds of the Treasuries of the Confederations after they have complied with sending their corresponding percentages.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP VICE-PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 9

I. He shall substitute the Bishop President when the latter, for justified reasons, cannot or should not continue his duties.

II. In the absence of the Bishop President, he shall preside over the General Conventions, General Board of Directors Meetings, Joint Meetings and Episcopal Meetings.

III. He shall attend any General or District Convention, in this country or abroad, with the authority of the Bishop President, and will carry out any assignment that may be bestowed upon him by the General Convention or meetings of the General Board of Directors.

IV. In emergencies, the Bishop Vice-President may intervene in matters presented by the district bishops and will immediately inform the Bishop President of the agreement.

V. He shall preside over the Revisory Commission of the Constitution. He shall be the editor of the revisions of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP GENERAL SECRETARY

ARTICLE 10

I. He shall record and file the minutes of all the General Conventions, General Board of Directors meetings, Joint meetings and Episcopal Meetings.

II. He shall file copies of the minutes of the district conventions.

III. He shall keep a file of each minister affiliated with the Apostolic Assembly, recording the information regarding the various commissions assigned.

IV. He shall be responsible for all official documents that are printed in the Official Gazette of the Apostolic Assembly.

V. Jointly with the Bishop President, he shall sign all credentials, licenses, certificates of ordination, certificates of initiation, appointments and other documents that require their signatures.

VI. He shall be in charge of processing and distributing the credentials, licenses, certificates of ordination, certificates of initiation and appointments. He shall also keep a corresponding file.

VII. He shall represent the Apostolic Assembly in any negotiations that requires his direct participation.

VIII. He shall follow the proper protocol in notarizing all legal documents according to the governing laws of each country.

IX. He shall be in charge of all the official correspondence and maintain the corresponding files.

X. By means of circulars, he shall inform the members of the General Board of Directors, supervising bishops, elders, pastors, foreign missionaries, national missionaries and ministers in charge of new works, regarding the agreements of general interest of the General Conventions, General Board of Directors Meetings, Joint Meetings and Episcopal Meetings.

XI. He will require of the supervising bishops the statistics that the Bishop President shall include in his report to the General Conventions. Furthermore, the Bishop General Secretary will send and receive from the supervising bishops the questionnaire corresponding to the annual pastoral evaluation approved by the General Board of Directors.

XII. He shall carry out all commissions entrusted him by the General Convention, General Board of Directors Meetings, and by the Bishop President.

XIII. He shall surrender an inventory of books, files and equipment related to the office of the General Secretariat to his successor before a committee appointed by the Bishop President.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE BISHOP GENERAL SECRETARY

ARTICLE 11

I. He shall request from district bishops, elders, pastors, evangelists and ministers in charge of new works, all the data that he considers necessary for the formation of the General Secretariat archives and for the preparation of reports.

II. He shall require that district bishops send him, all data related to the initiation, ordination, change or cessation of ministers, the establishment of new congregations and the construction and dedication of church buildings.

III. He shall require that district bishops or district secretaries provide copies of the minutes of their District Conventions and ministerial meetings in which the removal of ministers took place.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP GENERAL TREASURER

ARTICLE 12

I. He shall be responsible for all funds that are received from percentages of churches, Confederations, missionary offerings, district bishop's and members of the General Board of Directors' tithes, and other funds that should be managed by the General Treasury.

II. He shall be responsible for all funds entrusted to him.

III. He shall maintain records of all income and expenses of each fund under his care. He shall manage joint savings or checking accounts as instructed by the General Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors, with his signature, and that of the Bishop President or designated parties.

IV. He shall make the authorized expenditures in accordance with the General Conventions, meetings of the General Board of Directors, or written orders from the Bishop President, who in such cases, shall indicate clearly the purpose of the expense and which fund is to be used. The funds shall not be used for any other purpose.

V. He shall draw up a receipt for all funds that are entrusted to him. He shall record all transactions and deposit the monies in the corresponding bank accounts. He shall present a financial report, certified by a public accountant, before the General Conventions.

VI. He shall present a financial report before the General Board of Directors and to the Bishop President, as often as he requires. He shall provide a copy of his report to the Bishop General Secretary for his files.

VII. He shall present, as often as necessary a written report of the contributions from the churches to all the members of the General Board of Directors, supervising bishops, elders, pastors, ministers assigned to new works and national evangelists.

VIII. He shall give due attention to all correspondence relating to his position and prepare the corresponding files.

IX. He shall keep a ledger in which he will record all contributions of each church.

X. Upon termination of his term, he shall transfer all funds, the corresponding records and all the belongings of the Apostolic Assembly that are for the use of the General Treasury, to his successor.

XI. The transfer of inventory should be done by the Bishop General Treasurer before the Bishop President, or a committee appointed by the Bishop President. All transfers should be recorded in the minutes along with the corresponding balance and it should be signed by all involved in the matter.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE BISHOP GENERAL TREASURER

ARTICLE 13

I. He shall require of pastors and those in charge of new works that they send all their corresponding percentages. In cases of negligence or omissions, he will request the intervention of district bishops.

II. He shall require that district bishops and members of the General Board of Directors send their tithes.

III. He shall require that the treasuries of districts, confederations, federations and others agreed upon, send their corresponding percentages, as well as an annual financial report of all church income.

IV. Whenever the Bishop General Treasurer deems it necessary, he can request that the members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops, elders or pastors review the books, which in the judgment of the Bishop General Treasurer need to be put in order, especially when their financial obligations are being neglected. He will conduct the audits that the Bishop President may order him.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

ARTICLE 14

I. He shall direct the missionary work, supervising it in all countries where it already exists and in the opening of new works. He shall represent the interests of the Apostolic Assembly abroad, and perform his work with the use of missionaries, supervisors and other ministers that are sent forth, or are initiated and ordained in the missionary fields.

II. He shall visit, as often as agreed in General Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors, those countries where there are established churches and places where it is determined to establish them. The visits shall have the purpose of guiding supervising missionaries and co-workers with the goal of attaining the greatest development possible.

III. He shall develop a work plan and an annual budget, and present them to the General Board of Directors for their study and approval.

IV. He shall petition the General Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors the authorization to hold conventions in those countries where needed. Once approved, he himself will preside over those conventions.

V. He shall give a report on the mission fields, including statistics, before the General Conventions and ordinary meetings of the General Board of Directors.

VI. He shall propose missionary candidates to be examined before a full session of the General Board of Directors, and if approved, send them wherever they may be needed, to fulfill their noble mission.

VII. He shall keep the Bishop President regularly informed on the state of the missionary work and request his advice to solve problems that require an immediate resolution.

VIII. He shall keep a personal record of each missionary and of the native ministers being set aside and ordained. He shall also prepare the files with the minutes of the conventions and other important documents of events of God's work abroad.

IX. As frequently as necessary, he shall send instructions to missionary bishops, missionaries and native ministers regarding the manner in which they should develop their work.

X. He shall keep a registry of all properties acquired in foreign mission fields under the name of the APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

XI. He shall reach an agreement in a full session of the General Board of Directors regarding the expenditures of the mission field. The setting of salaries for missionaries and the cost of round trips must obtain prior approval from the General Board of Directors in its entirety, or, in case of emergency, from the Bishop President and two other members of the General Board of Directors.

XII. He shall be responsible for issuing all credentials and appointments to missionaries. These documents should carry the signatures of himself, the Bishop President, and the Bishop General Secretary of the Apostolic Assembly.

XIII. He shall strive for the establishment of Bible schools and institutes in foreign countries, for the preparation of native ministers.

XIV. To fulfill the goals of the previous clause, the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions shall strive to acquire properties and construct buildings so that these goals become a reality.

XV. He shall transfer, at the end of his term, by inventory, and before the Bishop President or a duly appointed committee, all books, records, equipment and documents granting rights to properties in the different foreign countries, which may have been acquired in the name of the APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

ARTICLE 15

I. He shall require of the missionaries the strict compliance of their duties, and require them to submit a quarterly report of their activities.

II. During his supervision visits, he shall solve those problems requiring immediate attention and inform a full session of the General Board of Directors of his decisions.

III. He shall preside, in the absence of the Bishop President, over the Conventions and ministerial meetings that take place during his visits to missionary fields.

IV. In those conventions and ministerial meetings held during his visits, he shall initiate and ordain ministers, with the previous consent of the supervising missionaries and convention accords. He shall watch over the compliance of all requirements established in the Constitution for both initiation and ordination as well as for the removal and appointment of ministers.

V. He shall ensure that churches be established in each country, teaching native believers to fulfill their Christian duties, tithing, giving offerings, and making all contributions that are within their possibilities and have been agreed upon to assist missionaries with their travel and supervision expenses and native ministers with their pastoral work. He shall make every effort so that in each country the Apostolic Assembly becomes self-sufficient in its economic system.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

ARTICLE 16

I. To form the Committee of National Missions, he shall present in writing the names of the candidates to the General Board of Directors, who will approve the personnel.

II. He shall establish and organize new churches and sectors in cities not belonging to any district. He may perform the same tasks within existing districts at the request of bishops. The Secretariat of National Missions shall present its work plan, for its analysis, on an annual basis, or whenever the General Board of Directors deems it necessary.

III. He shall present in writing to the General Board of Directors the applications of ministers who wish to be considered for work in National Missions.

IV. He shall present in writing to the General Board of Directors, the budget of National Missions for its analysis, which will be utilized to implement the approved work plan.

V. He shall circulate by letter, the names of the national evangelists, approved by the General Board of Directors. In order to minister at any level of the Apostolic Assembly, the national evangelist should be invited in writing.

Furthermore, he should authorize the national evangelists to carry out their work programs in areas not belonging to an established district, or outside of the country whenever the General Board of Directors approves it.

VI. He shall supervise the national evangelists, who are working in areas not belonging to a district. He shall help them establish and duly organize their works, for the formation of new churches. He shall also give a progress report of all work done to the General Conventions, meetings of the General Board of Directors, joint meetings, and district conventions.

VII. He shall submit a written request to the General Board of Directors on matters regarding the financial assistance and salaries that can be assigned to evangelists.

VIII. The funds belonging to the Secretariat of National Missions shall be administered by the General Treasury, according to Article 12, Clause I and IV.

IX. He shall present in writing, to the General Board of Directors requests for the acquisition of properties to establish new churches in areas not belonging to a district.

X. He shall legalize the titles of the acquired properties, conforming to Article 31, Clause II, and send a copy of the documents to the General Secretariat.

XI. He shall sign the applications for credentials, licenses and certificates of initiation of personnel working in areas not belonging to a district.

XII. At the end of his term, he shall surrender to his successor an inventory of all equipment, books, and files that belong to the Secretariat, in the presence of the Bishop President or duly appointed persons.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ARTICLE 17

I. He shall write the Sunday School lessons, and when this is done by others, will review the original for his approval before publishing.

- II. He shall promote the establishment of Sunday schools and provide seminars for their teachers and officials.
- III. He shall collaborate with districts to provide seminars and establish schools for the preparation of ministers.
- IV. He shall see that established Bible schools and institutes develop a good program of theological, pedagogical, and pastoral studies, and that Bible schools be established for the preparation of ministers. New projects for the establishment of Bible institutes shall be presented by the Bishop Secretary of Christian Education before the General Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors for their approval, so that they may receive better promotion.
- V. At each General Convention or ordinary meeting of the General Board of Directors, he shall render a report of his activities, including a financial statement of the committee under his charge.
- VI. He shall develop work plans and an annual budget and present it to the General Board of Directors for study and approval.
- VII. He shall undertake any task assigned to him at General Conventions, the General Board of Directors, or by the Bishop President.
- VIII. He shall be the editor responsible for all publications of the Apostolic Assembly (except the editions of the Constitution). New editions shall be made by agreements reached by General Conventions, General Board of Directors, or Joint Meetings.
- IX. He will serve as the Director of Publications to provide the Apostolic Assembly with appropriate literature especially related to doctrine, organization and financial systems. He will be in charge of all corporate publications of whose edition he will be responsible.
- X. Whenever books or pamphlets are written about doctrine, organizational and economic systems of the corporation, the General Board of Directors, or one of its commissions, will study the originals, and, if approved, the Director of Publications will proceed to edit them.
- XI. The production of hymnals, expositors, textbooks for Bible schools and institutes, and all literature that may be useful to direct the Christian life, provide spiritual guidance, and growth of the Apostolic Assembly, will be under the care of the Department of Literature, and the Director of Publications will promote their distribution.
- XII. At the end of its term, the Committee of Publications shall transfer to its successor an inventory along with a general balance and current account statement of existing literature and funds to be handed over.
- XIII. The transfer ceremony shall be presided by the person or persons appointed by the Bishop President, who will then sign the corresponding minutes.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ARTICLE 18

I. He shall prepare a general program of Christian education that, with the approval of the General Convention or the General Board of Directors, will be put into practice in all Bible schools, Bible institutes, and Christian schools. He shall examine the programs of temporary Bible schools, which will not be allowed to operate without his approval.

II. He shall jointly sign with the officials of the Bible schools and Bible institutes, certificates, promotions, and diplomas given to students in permanent Bible institutes and temporary Bible schools.

III. To meet the demands of the Secretariat of Christian Education, a committee shall be organized to function in accordance with the guidelines approved by General Conventions or the General Board of Directors.

IV. He shall require of the Pastors that they fulfill their obligation to send agreed upon contributions to strengthen the treasury of the Committee of Christian Education. In case of negligence or omission, he shall ask district bishops to intervene. As a last resort, he shall request the intervention of the Bishop President.

DUTIES OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

ARTICLE 19

I. The Apostolic Assembly shall name a Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance to fulfill the corporation's moral duty to assist indigents, protect orphans, widows, and very especially, to assist those ministers that reach retirement age without financial resources.

II. The Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance shall encourage the Apostolic Assembly to include in its annual budget, approved by the General Board of Directors, funds to solve social problems within the Christian community and as much as possible to nonbelievers. The social problems to be targeted are those arising from orphan hood, widowhood, elderly or other fortuitous misfortunes.

III. To fulfill the purposes enumerated in the aforementioned clause, the Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance shall organize a Pro-Assistance Committee, which he will preside. Wherever possible and necessary, he shall invite sponsors to establish orphanages, convalescent homes, and cultural and social rehabilitation centers.

IV. He is responsible to meet the needs of ministers who have dedicated their entire life, or a major part of it, to the ministry, who upon reaching retirement age, lack means of subsistence.

V. The Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance and the district bishop shall be in charge of processing the retirement of pastors.

VI. All retirement applications shall be signed by the Bishop President of the Apostolic Assembly and the corresponding district bishop, and be forwarded to the Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance who will deliver, or instruct someone to deliver, the corresponding assistance.

VII. Supervising bishops and pastors shall receive from three (3) to seven (7) percent of all their respective treasuries toward their retirement, except those related to national projects, pursuant to the Pastor's Retirement document. Said amounts shall be deposited in a certified retirement

account. An amount shall be established to begin monthly deposits of this benefit, according to the position and seniority of the district bishop or pastor:

1. The members of the General Board of Directors, aside from the initial payment made towards their retirement plan, shall receive a monthly fixed amount, which should be agreed upon in plenary session of this same board in conjunction with the Episcopal body. This fixed amount shall be evaluated biannually by the same plenary session.
2. The Bishop President, in a meeting with the District Board of Directors, shall establish the retirement plan for the supervising bishop.
3. The supervising bishop, in a meeting with the local church government, shall establish the retirement plan for the pastor, in accordance with what is written in this clause.

POWERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 20

I. The General Board of Directors is the highest representative body of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus, and is organized for the purpose of directing and controlling all the activities of this religious corporation. It shall oversee the compliance of agreements, plans and projects that have been approved by the General Conventions, its own meetings, joint meetings, and Episcopal meetings. During the interval between one General Convention and another, this board has the authority to solve immediately those problems that may arise, make the necessary decisions, and represent the will of the Apostolic Assembly as a whole.

II. All the members of the General Board of Directors shall be recognized with the ministerial category of bishop.

III. The decisions of the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly must be respected and obeyed by all ministers, and may only be rectified by an agreement of a General Convention.

IV. The General Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year for the purpose of immediately handling and resolving all matters of national character, and those entrusted to them during the General Conventions. The Board may also study and resolve matters that, due to their delicate nature, need special and careful considerations.

V. The General Board of Directors, or one of its committees, shall formulate the program of General Conventions, and inform in advance.

VI. The General Board of Directors has the authority to regulate the corporation's activities in those states with different laws and regulations than other states in the country. It will also regulate the operation of the Apostolic Assembly in the different countries where there is missionary work.

VII. The General Board of Directors shall name a Qualifying Committee to select candidates for the elections of the national confederations.

VIII. The General Board of Directors has the authority to order an audit of books of the General Treasury as well as those of district, sector, and local treasuries. The Board shall assign a Commission or an accountant to audit and certify the reports submitted in General Conventions, ordinary meetings of the General Board of Directors, and district conventions, respectively.

IX. The General Board of Directors has the right to call, as many times as it deems necessary, for general meetings of supervising bishops and pastors. It can also call the rest of the ministers whenever deemed convenient.

X. The General Board of Directors can designate bishops in those districts in which the personnel do not fulfill the requirements established for the election of a supervising bishop, or when circumstances and problems in a district require that the supervisor be someone from outside the district.

XI. The General Board of Directors has the faculty to extend honorary titles to ministers it deems worthy of merit.

XII. The General Board has the right and the duty to annually evaluate the work of the eight General Board Members. These evaluations grant the opportunity of recommendations for personal growth, departmental growth, and consequently strengthening the leadership of our organization. These evaluations provide the opportunity to assist or to cease officials that have not fulfilled their responsibilities and functions at a satisfactory level. This shall be done according to the "Evaluations Manual of the Members of the General Board".

SALARIES AND HONORARIUM

ARTICLE 21

I. The members of the General Board of Directors shall receive a salary for the exercise of official duties. They also have the right to financial support to enjoy an annual vacation.

II. After the election of the General Board of Directors, a joint meeting will be authorized to name a Commission of Salary Adjustment. Such commission will serve during the term of the elected general board. The Commission of Salary Adjustment shall consist of the Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance (who will serve as its president), the Bishop General Treasurer, three supervising bishops, and two pastors.

III. The Commission of Salary Adjustment will meet annually in September to study, adjust, and recommend changes to assigned salaries and the financial support for the annual vacations of each member of the General Board of Directors. The Commission shall present its recommended resolutions in writing to the joint meeting for analysis and resolution.

IV. The members of the General Board of Directors have the right to a joint celebration, a "Day of Recognition", to be held every two years. The Commission of Salary Adjustment is the authorized body that initiates the process and promotion to implement the stipulations of this clause.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE, RESIGNATIONS AND CESSATIONS

ARTICLE 22

I. Whenever the Bishop President leaves his functions, due to death, irrevocable resignation, or cessation, the Bishop Vice President shall become the new Bishop President, after he has been sworn in by the Bishop General Secretary in the presence of the remaining members, or a majority, of the General Board of Directors.

II. Whenever any member of the General Board of Directors submits a resignation that is not irrevocable, the Bishop President and the Bishop Vice-president, or in its case, the Bishop Vice-president and the Bishop General Secretary, and two other members of the General Board of Directors shall convene to study the matter. If the resignation were accepted for justified reasons, the rest of the members shall convene to be informed of the decision and to appoint the new official for the remaining term.

II. Whenever a member of the General Board of Directors is dismissed from his position, the committee that presided over the case shall convene the rest of the members to inform them of the matter. Should the dismissal be ratified, they shall proceed to appoint the new official that will function for the remaining term.

IV. Whenever any Member of the General Board of Directors ceases to function in his position, be it by cessation, resignation or death, the remaining members of the General Board of Directors shall name a replacement for that position.

V. In the absence of one of the General Board of Directors in his position, the Bishop President will call the rest of the General Board of Directors to name a replacement for that position.

THIRD CHAPTER

GENERAL CONVENTIONS

ARTICLE 23

I. There will be a General Convention every two years at a date and place to be set by the General Board of Directors. Attendance is mandatory for all the members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops, elders, pastors, national missionaries and ministers in charge of new works. In case of absence, a pastor may appoint the assistant pastor or an ordained minister as his delegate. Foreign Missionaries that the General Board of Directors authorizes may attend as well. Whenever the General Board of Directors deems it convenient, it will call for Extraordinary or Ministerial General Conventions with legislative power.

II. The General Board of Directors will name a Pro-General Convention Committee and consider the approval of personnel for its subcommittees. The Committee will be in charge of informing and orientating the ministerial body. The membership of the Apostolic Assembly will be requested to attend when needed. The Committee will execute the approved program in the best way possible to ensure its success.

III. The Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary are responsible to make the respective convocation, presenting the names of the Pro- General Convention Committee. The Committee will then promote the Convention, and plan the budget. The budget will be implemented after being approved by the General Board of Directors.

IV. All ministers affiliated with the Apostolic Assembly as well as its general membership must contribute towards the cost of ministerial or general conventions. They shall, therefore, support the plan and budget of the General Convention by making their contributions as instructed.

V. The General Board of Directors will formulate, with enough anticipation, a well structured program of activities in which the best goals may be reached, for the intellectual and spiritual gains of the church. In General Electoral Conventions, the time and date of elections shall be clearly announced. The General Board of Directors will evaluate the volume of constitutional amendment proposals to allocate the necessary time for their evaluation and resolution and they shall be included in the program of the General Convention.

VI. Upon conclusion of the General Convention, the Convention Committee will submit a written report of its activities to be published in the official gazette of the Apostolic Assembly. Such report shall include a financial statement of the convention budget to inform all contributors.

VII. The program of each General Convention shall include the following:

1. Inauguration of the Convention.
2. Registration of ministers.
3. Appointments of committees.
4. Bishop President's report.
5. Bishop Vice-president's report.
6. Bishop General Secretary's report.
7. Bishop General Treasurer's report.
8. Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions' report.
9. Bishop Secretary of National Missions' report.
10. Bishop Secretary of Christian Education's report.
11. Bishop Secretary of Social Assistance's report.
12. Other reports (publications).
13. Presentation and discussion of initiative-proposals.
14. Presentation and discussion of proposals.
15. Elections (when deemed necessary).
16. Designations and Appointments.
17. Committee Reports (should there be any).
18. General Matters.
19. Adjournment.

VIII. All the reports of the General Board of Directors shall be printed and distributed.

IX. In each General Convention, the Bishop President will name a Proposal Screening Committee that will be composed of two members of the General Board of Directors and two supervising bishops, whose duty will be to receive, evaluate, and classify or categorize by priority, those propositions presented to formulate an agenda or order of the day. Such agenda shall be presented before the assembly of ministers for their approval.

X. The Resolutions Committee shall be comprised of the Bishop President, or his representative, two additional members from the General Board of Directors, and three supervising bishops. Once compiled and approved, the agenda of proposals will be turned over to the Resolutions Committee, named by the General Board of Directors, which will study in depth each matter, and present it in a timely manner to the assembly of ministers for its discussion and ratification or rectification, whichever the case may be.

XI. Admittance to ministerial meetings at General Conventions, according to its rules, will be denied to those ministers who do not bear a current credential or license issued by the Apostolic

Assembly. Likewise, those initiated to the ministry will not be admitted if they lack a corresponding certificate.

AGREEMENTS OF GENERAL CONVENTIONS, GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JOINT MEETINGS AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

ARTICLE 24

I. The agreements of General Conventions, General Board of Directors and Joint Meetings will be valid in the churches and mission fields of the Apostolic Assembly.

These agreements should be observed and obeyed by all ministers and the membership at large, and can only be renewed, rectified and ratified by another General Convention.

II. The agreements of the General Board of Directors will be valid in all districts and must be observed and obeyed in the churches of the Apostolic Assembly throughout the country and abroad. These agreements can be rectified, renewed or ratified in a General Convention.

III. The district convention agreements will be valid within the districts where they were agreed upon and shall be observed and obeyed by all ministers and churches. In order for these agreements to acquire general validity, they must be ratified by a General Convention, which may also rectify them. The General Board of Directors must rectify any agreement from a district convention that violates any articles of the present constitution.

FOURTH CHAPTER

FOREIGN MISSIONARY WORK

ARTICLE 25

I. For the calling of undertaking the enormous task of going to all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature, the Apostolic Assembly shall organize a Foreign Missions Committee, which will function according to the approved regulations of the General Conventions or the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly.

II. The Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions shall preside the Committee of Foreign Missions in addition to performing the functions indicated in Article 14 of this Constitution. He shall also be the general supervisor of the work of God in those foreign countries where the Apostolic Assembly is already or will be established.

III. The Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions will strive to organize other committees, subordinate to the Committee of Foreign Missions, to assist him in the fulfillment of the missionary plans that are approved by the General Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors.

IV. In those countries where the Apostolic Assembly has developed sufficiently and an ecclesiastical government has been organized, a Committee of Foreign Missions will be named that will do similar work to its counterpart in the United States of America, to further promote missionary work in other countries.

V. All ministers and congregations in the United States of America must support the plans of the Committee of Foreign Missions by giving offerings in accordance to the amounts approved by

the General Convention or the General Board of Directors . The native ministers and congregations in the mission fields must support the plans of their respective committees.

VI. The Committee of Foreign Missions will see that missionaries remain in each country as long as necessary to ensure that the work initiated becomes a complete success. This requirement entails a stay until the established church has duly prepared ministers who may be organized into an ecclesiastical government to direct the work and relieve the Committee of Foreign Missions from its responsibilities. The Committee of Foreign Missions shall work to maintain the friendship, communion and fellowship indefinitely with each native church.

VII. The Apostolic Assembly shall strive to attain legal recognition where laws permit, to help establish national churches abroad. This will facilitate the acquisition and administration of real estate, for the construction of: temples, parsonages, Bible schools, institutes, colleges, hospitals, clinics, orphanages, convalescent homes, and like programs.

VIII. When the development of the missionary work in any country has reached maturity and stability, in the judgment of the General Board of Directors and the General Convention, there can be an agreement for the Apostolic Assembly to withdraw its missionaries. When this occurs, the native church is left in the hands of an ecclesiastical government duly organized to direct and control it responsibly. Reaching this goal requires that the agreement must be bilateral so as not to harm the native church in any manner.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY REQUIREMENTS

ARTICLE 26

I. A special calling is required to undertake missionary work, and those that perceived this calling should demonstrate it in their words and deeds, in such a manner that pastors and bishops can attest to that calling.

II. Those aspiring to be missionaries must receive special preparation before leaving for the mission field. Therefore, those that demonstrate having the calling will be given consideration and the opportunity to prepare themselves in the language, customs, culture, life conditions, and everything related to the people that they intend to evangelize.

III. When the Apostolic Assembly contemplates sending a missionary, it must consider those ministers that have received adequate preparation, and have sufficient experience in the work. This experience entails either having served successfully for at least four years as evangelists or as pastors. Moreover, their calling to do missionary work must be verified.

IV. Those ministers who feel a calling to be foreign missionaries, but lack experience, may work to acquire it under a pastor, an evangelist or under a foreign missionary. If training under a missionary, the cost of travel to the mission field and living expenses must be borne by the candidate and must be approved by the Committee of Foreign Missions. After completing their training, and being approved as foreign missionaries, they may begin functioning as such.

V. The Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions shall examine and submit the names of the missionary candidates to the General Board of Directors, who in his judgment, fulfill the basic requirements. When approved, by the General Board of Directors they will be sent to carry out their vocation with all the support that can be provided.

VI. Missionaries must work earnestly and willingly for at least a period of four years. If for any reason they wish to return before completing their term, they must present their request to the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions. If the reasons are justified, he will authorize their return after conferring with the General Board of Directors or, if not possible, with the Bishop President. Those missionaries who return without prior permission or authorization will lose all their rights and will have to cover their own expenses.

VII. At the start of their appointment, missionaries must be twenty-five years old and no more than forty-five years old, married, and whose wives are also willing to go to the mission fields. He and all members of his family must be in good physical and mental health.

VIII. Supervising missionaries may be sent with the title of Bishop by agreement of a General Convention or the General Board of Directors. Those missionaries who have satisfactorily worked at least four years in the mission field, and that have at least twelve churches in the country or area they will supervise, may also be given the title of Bishop.

IX. The General Board of Directors will assign the perimeters within which missionaries work, especially the country or countries which the supervising missionary oversees. The General Board of Directors shall provide missionaries with identifying documentation to indicate their appointment and bestowed authority.

X. Missionary bishops shall organize the work, creating sectors as deemed necessary with prior authorization from the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions and in accordance with the conventions held in the mission field. Other missionaries and native ministers that meet all the requirements as set forth in the present constitution may also be named elders.

XI. With the purpose of assuming the future leadership of their own national church, native ministers that acquire capabilities and experience shall receive adequate instruction and that which is necessary to undertake the functions of auxiliary elders.

XII. Missionaries who in the exercise of their ministry work do not demonstrate fidelity to the organizational, doctrinal, and financial system of this corporation, and who therefore break the principles of unity with the Apostolic Assembly that sent them, will be removed from their duties. Should they refuse to abide by the orders of the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions, they will be ceased once the General Board of Directors has relinquished its responsibility towards them.

XIII. Missionaries who leave the mission field, because of an emergency due to personal or other circumstances, will pay their own expenses. In order for the Committee of Foreign Missions to assume some financial responsibility, the missionaries must present their reasons before the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions, who after prior consultation with the General Board of Directors, will determine whether the missionaries will be allowed to return to the mission field and whether the expenses incurred will be covered by the Foreign Missions treasury or by whomever incurred them without prior authorization.

XIV. Every four years, missionaries will be able to take a leave of absence with pay, of up to two months to return to their country of origin. They will also be able to use their vacation to rest in the same mission field or visit other countries whenever they desire to continue working additional terms in that capacity. All particular arrangements will be made between the missionaries and the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions, but the General Board of Directors shall be duly informed. Missionaries who complete four years of work and desire to return to their country of origin will have the right to their travel expenses and two months of salary.

XV. Missionaries who, upon returning from the field, desire to extend their stay beyond two months must obtain written permission from the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions. If approved, this extended leave will be offered without pay for as long as it exceeds their vacation time.

XVI. Before going out to the mission fields, each missionary shall sign an agreement to specify his obligations, accepted time limit, and the responsibilities that the Apostolic Assembly assumes with him and his family.

FIFTH CHAPTER

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

ARTICLE 27

I. Due to the nature of the work of the Apostolic Assembly, the Department of Literature is responsible for the production of appropriate literature, such as hymnals, inspirational books, devotionals, and textbooks for Bible schools, institutes or colleges. This Department shall also publish expositors of the Word of God for Sunday schools, registry books for baptisms and presentation of infants, certificates, credentials, and all literature that contributes to the diffusion of the knowledge of the truths of the gospel, to religious education and intellectual enhancement, and to the moral and spiritual growth of all believers.

II. To attain these goals, a Committee of Publications shall be organized, which shall be presided by the Bishop Secretary of Christian Education, and have a Secretary of Distribution and an Administrative-Treasurer. The committee shall have the personnel that it deems necessary within its possibilities.

III. All income and expenditures shall be administered by the Bishop General Treasurer.

IV. The President of the Committee shall determine all that is related to the production, distribution, prices, sales, purchase of books from other publishing houses, credit accounts, discounts and the publishing time of new editions approved by the General Board of Directors.

V. The Bishop Secretary of Christian Education, with the approval of the General Board of Directors, shall determine the manner in which it will contract its employees, including salary and benefit packages, and other administrative costs, keeping in mind always that all investments be beneficial and all expenditures justified.

VI. The President of the committee will be responsible for the publications that he produces. He shall have under his charge the correction of proofs, the selection of books from publishers, and contracts with publishing houses, print shops, and other businesses where the literature will be produced or distributed.

VII. The secretary of the committee shall keep all correspondence, committee records, and will supply requests for literature.

VIII. The administrative treasurer of the committee will keep record of current literature. Shall receive checks, money orders, transfers, cash, or any other type of document certifying the

value of the literature under his charge. Keep the corresponding entries in his books. Make all payments related to the literature, file all receipts and invoices, and render a monthly report to the Bishop General Treasurer.

SIXTH CHAPTER

FUNDS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

ARTICLE 28

- I. Two per cent of the monthly proceedings from tithe of tithes sent by churches to the General Treasury will be allocated in a specifically designated fund, to be applied to promote biblical and theological education at a higher academic level for pastors and leaders.
- II. The resources of this fund will be used solely for scholarships for pastors and leaders of the Apostolic Assembly in the United States and the Foreign Missions, who are taking courses toward bachelors, masters or doctorate studies in theology in properly accredited seminaries.
- III. The list of scholarships awarded will be prepared and approved by the General Board of Directors.

SEVENTH CHAPTER

CREDENTIALS, LICENSES, CERTIFICATES OF INITIATION AND APPOINTMENTS

ARTICLE 29

- I. Ministers of the Apostolic Assembly must carry a current ministerial credential to be legally authorized to carry out all the functions of the ministry.
 1. Members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops, pastors, co-pastors, assistant pastors, foreign missionaries, national missionaries, evangelists and honorary and emeritus ministers approved by the General Board of Directors, must carry their credentials.
 2. Ordained ministers must carry their license.
 3. Those initiated to the ministry must carry their current certificate of initiation.
- II. Whenever a minister or someone initiated to the ministry does not receive, for unjustified reasons, his credential, license, or certificate, he may not officiate from behind the pulpit. This applies to all levels, from the local church to the national level.
- III. The credential, license, or certificate will indicate its current validity, for which a fee, agreed upon by the General Convention or the General Board of Directors, shall be paid. A current valid credential or license entitles ministers with the right to exercise their ministry and enjoy the privileges that the Word of God provides to those who agree with the doctrine of the Apostolic Assembly. This document is also a sign of the good fellowship that must exist among those who agree on doctrine, organizational system and support our financial system.
- IV. The credentials, licenses and certificates of initiation must bear the signatures of the Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary. To receive them, pastors must fill out an application

signed by their supervising bishop or, if working outside an established district, by the Bishop Secretary of National Missions; if working abroad, the application must be signed by the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions; the application must be signed by the pastor, if ministers and initiated to the ministry work subordinated to a local church.

V. Credentials for Foreign Missionaries must bear, besides the signature of the Bishop President and the Bishop General Secretary, that of the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions and will be in effect for four years or the length agreed upon. These Credentials will be void when the missionary returns without authorization to his country of origin or is withdrawn from his charge by agreement of the General Board of Directors.

VI. District Bishops must carry, besides a valid ministerial credential, a document signed by the Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary in which his appointment, perimeters of his district, and length of his term are indicated.

VII. Native ministers of the mission fields must carry a credential specifying their position and place of work. This credential must be issued by the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions, supervising missionary, and by the Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary of their own country if such positions exist.

VIII. Foreign Missionaries with special functions must carry, besides their valid ministerial credential, documentation of their appointment, which specifies their commission, the prerogatives given, and the length of time they have to fulfill their commission.

X. The Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary will provide the necessary documents to a minister or group of ministers designated to fulfill a special commission, within or outside the country. The document shall specify the commission, the prerogatives given, and the length of time they have to fulfill their commission.

EIGHTH CHAPTER

JOINT MEETINGS AND EPISCOPAL MEETINGS

ARTICLE 30

I. Considering that supervising bishops are assistants to the Bishop President, they shall convene annually and whenever deemed necessary to direct the supervisory work and propose practical plans that may fulfill the needs of the corresponding districts.

II. It is a primary responsibility of the Bishop President and the supervising bishops to comply with the bylaws of this Constitution and with the accords reached during General Conventions and meetings of the General Board of Directors.

III. The Joint Meetings shall consist of the General Board of Directors and the Episcopal Body.

IV. The Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary must attend the Episcopal Meetings to preside over them and take the respective minutes. The Bishop General Secretary is to inform the General Board of Directors and all district bishops of the minutes in due time.

V. The Bishop President may request other members of the General Board of Directors to be present during Episcopal Meetings. Likewise, he may also request the district bishops to be present during meetings of the General Board of Directors.

VI. Agreements made in Episcopal Meetings shall have full validity and be observed and obeyed after having been rectified, or ratified by the General Board of Directors, or the General Convention.

NINTH CHAPTER

CHURCH BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES

ARTICLE 31

For the purpose of this Article 31, "Property" is defined as real estate with or without improvements that are acquired, retained or used as place of worship or other religious activities by (i) members of the local congregation(s), (ii) the local District Office, (iii) the national office of the Apostolic Assembly, and/or (iv) a residence for the local pastor.

I. In the General Secretariat of the Apostolic Assembly, a record shall be kept of the temples, lands and buildings dedicated to the service of the Work of God in the United States of America.

II. All documents of conveyances of real estate, deeds, and any other documents with respect to property shall contain the following language of trust in each deeded document:

"The property will be acquired, used, kept, maintained, and held in trust for the Apostolic Assembly, as a place of worship for the Apostolic Assembly and members of the local congregation of the Apostolic Assembly." The property will be deeded to name "Apostolic Assembly of the Faith of Christ Jesus".

III. All property aforementioned in paragraph II shall also apply to church buildings known as missions or new works acquired by a pastor, minister, evangelist, ordained minister, a deacon or a congregant who is a member of the Apostolic Assembly. If the deed is temporarily acquired in the name of an individual or any entity outside of the Apostolic Assembly, the titled instrument will be given the same language quoted in paragraph II.

IV. In the event that a local church is divided, dissolved, merged, detached or resigns from the Apostolic Assembly, the deed of the property shall remain in the trust of the Apostolic Assembly, and the title will not be altered or changed.

V. As of the publication of the 2003 Constitution, if any property is not deeded as indicated above, the pastor of the church that is using that property shall immediately deed the property to the Apostolic Assembly and send the title document by certified mail, return receipt requested to: the Apostolic Assembly, attn: General Secretary, 10807 Laurel St. Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730. In the event that the pastor does not change the title to Apostolic Assembly, including the aforementioned language from paragraph II, six months after the effective date (December 2003), it will be understood that the pastor will hold the property in trust to the Apostolic Assembly. If a pastor, to whom this section applies, objects to retain the property in trust, the pastor will inform the President of the Apostolic Assembly in writing of his objection no later than sixty (60) days after the date of the December 2003 issue of the Constitution.

VI. When a property is purchased or donated for the service of the Apostolic Assembly, the title invariably must be entitled to: "APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."

VII. Pastors and caretakers of the local church shall be responsible for the upkeep of the temples, its furnishings, parsonages and other equipment belonging to the service. The caretaker will make an inventory, and shall take the responsibility of managing and improving the equipment's conservation and improving them, while ensuring all laws relating to the worship services are governed and observed.

VIII. No minister can misuse properties or acquired assets for the use of worship; they should only be allocated to the uses for which they were acquired.

IX. The General Board of the Apostolic Assembly, though it has a record of the church buildings and the power to buy, sell, rent, mortgage and lend property belonging to this corporation, may not dispose of any of them without the consent of the pastor and the majority of the members of the congregation that owns the property in question.

X. The consent for the General Board of the Apostolic Assembly to verify any of the aforementioned operations shall be recorded in a signed record of the minutes by the pastor and majority members of the respective congregation.

XI. For a congregation to buy, sell, rent, mortgage or lend properties, which would be under the name of the Apostolic Assembly, the following steps must be taken:

1. Submit the proposal to the local government of the church, which must state its approval of the proposal by a signed record of the minutes by its members.
2. The request must be made by the signed record of the minutes by the pastor and the majority members of the respective congregation.
3. The request must be approved by the district board, and the proposal shall then be recorded in a resolution.
4. The request must be approved by the General Board, which will give the final resolution.

XII. When a congregation is dissolved, and real estate property and its furnishings are found to be unused, the General Board and the district shall agree on how to manage those assets.

XIII. Any money gained from the sale of church buildings and real estate properties belonging to the Apostolic Assembly, as well as any income by way of bank loans, mortgages or loans of any other nature, shall be placed in an account in the name of "APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS." These funds will be deposited in a bank with joint signatures of the Bishop General Treasurer, the district bishop and pastor. It will be administered only in accordance with the congregation and pastor, supervising Bishop and the General Board.

XIV. The members of the General Board of the corporation "Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus" shall not give their signature to secure or execute any document outside of their office.

TENTH CHAPTER

REAL ESTATE TRUST FUND

ARTICLE 32

I. A real estate trust fund shall be established to provide loans to finance the purchase or remodeling of sanctuaries and to provide financial support for the establishment of new district works.

II. The funds for this trust fund shall come from five percent of the tithe of tithes sent by churches to the General Treasury, and five percent of the tithes of pastors sent to district treasuries.

III. The operation of this trust fund shall be administered by a committee presided by the Bishop General Treasurer with the assistance of a supervising bishop, an elder, and two pastors. The latter three members must have financial or investment expertise. The latter four members of this committee shall be appointed every four years by the General Board of Directors.

ELEVENTH CHAPTER

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ECCLESIASTIC ORGANIZATIONS

ARTICLE 33

I. We believe in the universality of the Church and that it should be united by the bonds of love and faithfulness to the doctrinal principles set forth in the Word of God.

II. We also believe that the unity of faith is a goal which we can achieve solely through the conservation of the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace (Ephesians 4:3). Therefore, we respect and esteem all Christian organizations of similar belief within and without our country, with which we can associate in Christian fellowship working towards common ideals. However, we wish to keep our own independence and will not accept any pact or compromise that will deprive us of our right to preach the gospel to every creature.

III. Although we respect and esteem all evangelical organizations that differ with our basic beliefs, we can in no way accept to be deprived, through compromise or due to fellowship, of the liberty to recognize in full fellowship in the Apostolic Assembly those persons that voluntarily wish to accept our doctrinal principles. We recommend to the ministers of our Church that they pay due respect and consideration to all persons of other beliefs, but that they should in no way compromise their doctrinal principles or the right to exercise them.

IV. We seek to always extend our fellowship to those who sincerely serve the Lord and strive to extend His Kingdom on earth, and we reiterate our support for the promotion of the Bible. We recommend to all our ministers and church members that they cooperate actively and unselfishly towards a profuse distribution of the Holy Scriptures.

V. We believe that racial, geographical, historical, cultural, traditional, and national conditions lead to differences in thought and conduct. Consequently, in our relations with organizations with similar doctrine but established in other countries, we accept and respect their differences as long as they do not implicate disobedience to the fundamental biblical doctrines (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 14:1-23, 15:12; II Corinthians 8:1-13).

TWELFTH CHAPTER

SOCIETIES OF MEN, LADIES, YOUTH AND JUNIORS

ARTICLE 34

I. Each congregation shall organize societies of men, ladies, youth and juniors for the spiritual, moral and social development of the church membership, providing members with the opportunity and means to serve the work of the Lord, according to age, gender and marital status.

II. Each society shall function in accordance with its statutes, as duly approved by the ministerial vote of a General Convention.

III. The advisor for the levels will be in the following manner:

1. Local societies, the pastor.
2. Sector, the auxiliary elder.
3. Federations, the district bishop.
4. Confederations, the Bishop President.

IV. When proposed-initiatives are presented to amend, expand, or reform the statutes of societies, Article 76 of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly shall be followed.

V. The statutes that regulate the Societies of Apostolic Men, Ladies, Messengers of Peace, and Junior Messengers of Peace shall be revised every four years or when the General Board of Directors deems it necessary. All revisions shall take place in accordance with Article 76 of this Constitution.

THIRTEENTH CHAPTER

PRIVILEGES

ARTICLE 35

The General Board of Directors is responsible for providing the most convenient position to outgoing members of the General Board of Directors, who have dedicated themselves exclusively to their duties, and who have neither been reelected to the same position nor elected to another one. The General Board of Directors shall also be responsible to provide them with financial, moral and spiritual help for no less than three months during the period of transition.

FOURTEENTH CHAPTER

RESIGNATIONS

ARTICLE 36

I. The resignation of a Bishop President must be presented in writing to a full session of the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly.

II. The resignations of other officers of the General Board of Directors, district bishops, and officers of the national confederations of men, ladies, youth, and juniors, shall be presented in writing to the Bishop President.

III. The resignation of elders, pastors, those in charge of a new work, and officers of the federations of men, ladies, youth, and juniors shall be presented in writing to the respective district bishop.

IV. The resignations of ministers and those initiated to the ministry of local churches, board members of the societies of men, ladies, youth, and other local officials must be presented in writing to their respective pastor.

V. The pertinent authorities, as indicated above, shall create a commission of at least three experienced ministers to study each resignation carefully. The resignation in question will be accepted if deemed justified, after having exhausted all legal and persuasive resources.

FIFTEENTH CHAPTER

TRIALS AND REMOVALS

ARTICLE 37

I. The Church recognizes our Lord Jesus Christ as the Just and Supreme Judge of all men, and knows that we will all appear before His Judgment Throne, at which time the true thoughts and acts of men will be revealed. We also find that the Word of God authorizes the Church to bring to trial those members who are disobedient or commit errors. These trials have two objectives:

1. To conserve, insofar as humanly possible, the purity of the Church by admonishing and dismissing those who, pretending to be Christians, disobey the Word of God, thus bringing shame and reproach upon the Church, thereby endangering other faithful Christians who may follow their example (I Corinthians 6:16; Titus 2: 10).
2. To consider those faults that may appear to be of minor importance, but nonetheless carry the danger of greater spiritual contamination to those who practice them. In these cases, the primary purpose is to find a way for the brethren to correct their faults and regain church fellowship (Galatians 6:1-2; II Timothy 2:24-26; 1 John 5:16-17; II Corinthians, 2:5-7).

II. It is the duty of pastors to counsel their church members, judge among them, correct their faults, remove from office those helpers not in the ministry who are insubordinate, and dismiss others when their proven bad conduct prevents them from being retained in the church. (I Timothy 5:20-21; Titus 1:13, 3:10; Hebrews 13:17).

III. Trials involving pastors, ministers in charge of a new work, evangelists, assistant pastors and ordained ministers, shall take place in meetings presided by the respective district bishop and at least two elders, and include all necessary witnesses.

IV. Trials involving members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops, and auxiliary elders shall take place in meetings presided by the Bishop President or, in his absence, by the Bishop Vice-President, with the assistance of the Bishop General Secretary and three more members from either the General Board of Directors or the Episcopal Body.

V. Accusations against pastors, ministers in charge of a new work, evangelists, co-pastors, assistant pastors, and ordained ministers shall be presented in writing and in duplicate to the corresponding district bishop, and be signed by at least two witnesses (I Timothy 5:19).

VI. The district bishop who received the aforementioned accusation shall send a copy to the accused party indicating the date and place where the trial will take place so that the latter may attend. The original copy shall remain with the district bishop for his use on the specified date of the trial.

VII. Accusations against members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops and elders shall be presented in writing and in duplicate to the Bishop President or, in his absence, to the Bishop Vice-President, and include the signatures of no less than two accusers (I Timothy 5:19).

VIII. The Bishop President, Bishop Vice-President or the Bishop General Secretary, shall send a copy to the accused party, indicating the date and place where the trial will take place. The original copy shall remain with the person who will preside over the trial for his use on the specified date.

IX. Those who are to preside over a trial shall summon the participants with enough anticipation, including the accused party, the accuser, and the necessary witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15).

X. The accused parties shall have the right to present witnesses they consider necessary for their defense, and be counseled by a minister of the Apostolic Assembly, selected by the accused party, who may also be present at the trial.

XI. No person shall be tried in absentia nor shall a trial be held if the accuser is not present.

XII. If neither the accused party nor the accuser is present, the one presiding over the trial shall decide whether to hold a new meeting or to pursue another course of action.

XIII. Whenever a pastor puts a member of his congregation on trial, the respective elder must be present with prior authorization of the supervising bishop.

XIV. All persons put on trial shall be considered innocent unless proven otherwise.

XV. The minutes of each trial shall be recorded, making note of all declarations made by trial participants and of the final decision. One copy of these minutes shall be sent to the Bishop General Secretary, a second one shall remain at the office of the respective district secretary, and the last one shall be given to the accused party.

XVI. Whenever a minister displays disloyalty to the principles of doctrine, organizational system, and discipline of the Apostolic Assembly, and labors against the church, thereby putting in danger its integrity and unity, he shall be held accountable by his respective supervisors. If he manifests having strayed from his religious convictions or is unable to continue exercising faithfully the ministry conferred on him, he shall be ceased from it. Should the case warrant it, he can be defrocked from the ministry or be expelled from the church membership.

XVII. Whenever a person accuses another, and the accusation cannot be proved, measures shall be taken to correct the accuser and vindicate the accused.

APPEALS

ARTICLE 38

I. A member of a local church who, in his opinion, has been tried unjustly by his local pastor, shall have the right to appeal to the District Board of Directors, which will examine each case and determine whether to hold a new trial or ratify the pastor's verdict (Deuteronomy 1: 17; III John 10).

II. A member who consider unjust the verdict rendered against him by the District Board of Directors shall have the right to appeal before the Bishop President, who shall recommend what is to be done.

III. Ministers tried by a district bishop who consider unjust the verdict rendered against them shall have the right to appeal before the Bishop President, who shall study the case with the rest of the members of the General Board of Directors and determine whether to hold a new trial or let the rendered verdict stand.

IV. Members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops or elders who, after having been tried, are not satisfied with the verdict rendered against them, may appeal to the next Joint Meeting, where a hearing will be held and a definite decision will be given.

SIXTEENTH CHAPTER

MINISTERIAL FAITHFULNESS

ARTICLE 39

I. In order to be a minister of the Apostolic Assembly, it is necessary to meet a series of requirements contained in the Word of God and in the present Constitution, among which figure fundamentally believing and practicing the doctrine of Christ in conformity with the Apostolic order, and agreeing with and practicing the financial and organizational system of the Apostolic Assembly.

II. It is a primary duty to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, until we all reach unity of faith. To that effect, all ministers shall strive to maintain harmony and fellowship among all members, ministers, congregations, and districts that comprise the Apostolic Assembly.

III. Each minister, upon assuming his conferred position, shall promise to faithfully fulfill, as a Christian, all the duties that he assumes, committing himself to proceed with all loyalty and honor, accepting all the rights and obligations inherent therein, without violating the doctrinal and organizational principles of the Apostolic Assembly.

IV. If, in the course of time, any minister is unable to proceed because of conscience, personal conviction, moral or physical disability, or having lost the will to sacrifice himself for God's cause, he shall submit his resignation to the proper authority and withdraw from his duties without causing harm to the congregation of the Lord, in regard to fellowship and faithfulness to God.

VIOLETIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 40

The Apostolic Assembly respects and acknowledges the Bible as the Word of God, the Supreme Book, and the Law to which all ministers, members, and this Constitution must adhere. Therefore, the Apostolic Assembly establishes the following:

I. The Bishop President, upon his election and to be confirmed to his position, shall swear to fulfill the bylaws established in the present Constitution, and with zeal see that all its duties be obeyed and its rights exercised justly, requiring from the other members of the General Board of Directors and district bishops the fulfillment of all their prescribed duties.

II. The rest of the members of the General Board of Directors and supervising bishops shall make a similar pledge to exercise their duties justly. They can also require the other members of the General Board of Directors and district bishops fulfill all of their prescribed obligations.

III. If the Bishop President violate the Constitution, the rest of the members of the General Board of Directors, presided by the Bishop Vice-President, shall form a Commission of Honor and Justice, and with all due respect, call the attention of the Bishop President to rectify his conduct and meet his prescribed obligations, considering that the high investiture of his office requires it.

IV. If the Constitution is violated by any other member of the General Board of Directors or a supervising Bishop, then the Bishop President, along with the Bishop General Secretary and three other members designated by the Bishop President, shall constitute a Commission of Honor and Justice to call the attention of the violator and bring him back inside the realm of legality.

V. If any official resists rectifying the violation called to his attention, the Commission of Honor and Justice will be able to sentence him with removal from office, and such sentence must be respected by all members of the Apostolic Assembly.

VI. In the case when the Bishop President is removed from office, the other members of the General Board of Directors shall convene all district bishops for the installation of the new Bishop President. This convocation shall be made by the Bishop General Secretary immediately after the removal from office is made, and they shall convene within fifteen days from such convocation.

VII. If a member of the General Board of Directors is removed from office, the Commission of Honor and Justice that dictated the sentence to remove him shall convene the other members of the General Board of Directors to appoint the person who shall fill the vacancy.

VIII. If the Constitution is violated by any accord reached at a General Convention, meeting of the General Board of Directors, Episcopal Body or district convention, the Commission of Honor and Justice shall propose that in the next meeting of the General Board of Directors or the next General Convention, whichever comes first, the accord be nullified and the Constitution be respected insofar as the violation is concerned.

IX. Any disobedience of the Constitution, in any of its parts, is considered a violation, even when done in ignorance. Therefore, every General Convention, meeting of the General Board of

Directors, Episcopal Body or district convention shall name a Legal Commission of two or three experts to verify that all their accords are in conformity with the Constitution. To help on all the General Conventions, these shall be designated from the appointed members of the Revision Commission.

X. Whenever deemed necessary to agree on a matter that is in direct conflict with the Constitution, a commission of three to five ministers shall be named to study the matter extensively and recommend what must be done. This commission may request revisions, extensions, and actualizations or innovations to articles or clauses, which are deemed convenient for the progress and well-being of the Apostolic Assembly.

SEVENTEENTH CHAPTER

ORGANIZATION OF DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 41

I. To facilitate the supervision and organization of the local churches, which should preserve their unity and fellowship, the Apostolic Assembly shall be organized into districts and sectors.

II. The General Board of Directors has the authority to create, divide or restructure a District.

III. The General Board of Directors shall consider the number of churches, the number of baptized members, the geographical distances between churches and the financial potential for the formation, division or restructuring of a district.

IV. To apply any of the above, the General Board shall utilize the directions found in the Formation of Districts Document.

V. To organize a new district, the General Board of Directors must consider its territorial parameters as well as any other pertinent factors.

VI. The General Board of Directors shall determine when a new district should be established and its perimeters.

VII. Each district shall have a district board of directors composed of a supervising bishop, a secretary, a treasurer, and auxiliary elders.

VIII. Each district shall organize federations of men, ladies, youth, and juniors.

SUPERVISION OF DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 42

I. For the supervision of each district, a bishop shall be elected in a district convention for a term of four years or until his successor is elected.

II. When for the first time a district is organized, in full session of the General Board of Directors shall appoint the bishop who will supervise it for a term of four years, at the end of which elections shall be held in the respective district convention.

III. District bishops may hold office for only two consecutive four year terms. They will be eligible for reelection only after four years have gone by since their last term in office, provided that they are proposed, approved and elected to hold that office again. They may, however, be appointed by the General Board of Directors to the position of supervising bishop in a new district or to cover an interim.

IV. If a supervising bishop is elected to a position in the General Board of Directors, he must relinquish his position as district bishop within a year. In the Apostolic Assembly, there can only be two types of concurrent appointments:

1. Pastor and member of the General Board of Directors.
2. Or pastor and district bishop.

V. Only the following positions can be held at the district level:

1. Pastor and district secretary
2. Pastor and district treasurer
3. Pastor and Elder

Nevertheless, when necessary, an exception can be made, with the approval of the Presiding Bishop.”

VI. To assist a bishop in the supervision of a district, elders shall be elected in regions with groups of churches that can be easily supervised by an auxiliary elder.

VII. Auxiliary elders shall be elected in their respective district conventions for a term of two years or until a successor is elected. They may serve in the same position for four consecutive periods only if proposed and elected by the ministerial body. To occupy the same position, a period of two years must pass after the four consecutive periods unless appointed to another sector.

VIII. The organization of new sectors in a district and the appointment of corresponding auxiliary elders, requires authorization from the Bishop President.

IX. Each sector shall elect, in addition to an auxiliary elder, a secretary treasurer or a secretary and a treasurer to assist in the supervision of the sector.

X. The election of the treasurer, secretary, or secretary-treasurer of the sectors shall be held in a sector meeting, by the supervising bishop and corresponding auxiliary elder. These sector officers shall serve a term of two years from the date of election, or until new officers are elected.

XI. The directors of the departments shall be appointed by the district board of directors. The committee shall be made up of one director, one secretary and one promoter. Sector coordinators shall also be appointed.

XII. Federation elections can take place either prior to or during district conventions.

XIII. The requests of ministers who aspire to become district evangelists shall be presented to the district board of directors for their analysis and resolution.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A DISTRICT BISHOP

ARTICLE 43

The following requirements must be met in order to become a district bishop:

I. He must have the spiritual and moral qualities set forth by the Word of God (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:13).

II. He must be at least thirty years old.

III. He must be an ordained minister who has served in the ministry of the Apostolic Assembly for no less than seven years.

IV. He must either have at least two years of experience as an auxiliary elder or have satisfactorily functioned as a district board member for one term. He must be active in the ministry, at least as a pastor, at the time of his election.

V. He must be in agreement with the Apostolic Assembly's doctrinal and organizational system and work plan, and publicly commit himself to fulfill his corresponding duties.

VI. He must be approved as a candidate by a qualifying committee named for that purpose.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE AN AUXILIARY ELDER

ARTICLE 44

The following requirements must be met in order to become an auxiliary elder:

I. He must have the moral and spiritual qualities set forth by the Word of God (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:13).

II. He must be at least twenty five years old.

III. He must have at least four years of pastoral experience.

IV. He must be actively involved in the pastoral ministry at the time of his election.

V. He must be in agreement with the doctrinal, organizational, and financial system of the Apostolic Assembly and its work plans, and publicly commit himself to fulfill his corresponding duties.

VI. He must be approved as a candidate by the qualifying committee named for that purpose.

ELECTION OF A DISTRICT BISHOP

ARTICLE 45

The election of each supervising bishop shall proceed in the following manner:

I. Two Sundays prior to elections, ministers will present themselves in a day of prayer and fasting.

II. The district convention president shall appoint an elections commission formed by three ministers.

III. Each voting minister shall write the name of his candidate on a secret ballot.

IV. The following ministers shall have the right to vote: the respective district bishop, the auxiliary elders, one representative from each church in that district, who would invariably be the pastor or minister in charge of a new work. When a pastor is justifiably unable to attend the district convention, he shall appoint a minister to represent him, providing the latter with proof of representation.

V. At the time of the election, the district convention president and the qualifying committee shall jointly grant the right to vote as they see fit to national evangelists and former pastors who are not presently pastoring for justified reasons, but are otherwise in full communion. Every voting minister must present a current ministerial credential.

VI. The elections commission shall collect all ballots and, after recounting the votes, submit to the qualifying committee the names of the candidates who received the most votes. In districts where there is not sufficient personnel, the Qualifying Committee shall function also as the Elections Commission.

VII. If the qualifying committee approves the candidates, then their names shall be made known to conduct the election.

VIII. After the names of the approved candidates are announced, the candidates shall be presented to the assembly for prayer so that God may indicate which one of them is to be the district bishop.

IX. After prayer, each minister shall write on the voting ballot the name of the candidate of his choosing.

X. The elections commission shall gather the ballots and, after recounting the votes, announce the name of the candidate who received the majority vote.

XI. In order to be confirmed in his position, the district bishop-elect must publicly commit himself to obey the doctrinal, financial principles and organizational system delineated in this Constitution.

ELECTION OF AN AUXILIARY ELDER

ARTICLE 46

Auxiliary elders shall be elected in the following manner:

I. Whenever a sector has enough personnel, its pastors shall propose candidates for the office of auxiliary elder. These candidates must be approved by the qualifying committee.

II. After the qualifying committee has approved the names of two candidates, these shall be presented to the assembly, which will pray for divine guidance.

III. The voters of the respective sector shall elect one of the candidates by majority vote.

IV. The same electoral system used for the district bishop shall apply for the election of an auxiliary elder, with the exception of the duration of their respective terms.

V. In order to be confirmed in his position, each elected auxiliary elder must publicly commit himself to obey the doctrinal, organizational, and financial principles delineated in this Constitution.

VI. When a given sector at election time lacks auxiliary elder candidates who meet the requirements of the Constitution in terms of years required, the qualifying committee shall nominate two ministers whom it deems the most qualified to run for this position.

THE QUALIFYING COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 47

I. Each time there is an election, a qualifying committee shall be named to evaluate candidates for district bishop or auxiliary elders on the basis of their right, ability, and suitability. This committee shall be formed by the Bishop President or his representative and two or four more persons that he designates.

II. The committee shall deliberate in a separate place from the assembly. Whenever a minister objects to the candidacy of another minister, he shall present his objections in private before the qualifying committee. The election will be suspended while the objections are discussed. These objections shall not be put to discussion before the assembly.

III. A new election shall take place whenever, in the judgment of the qualifying committee, one of the two candidates does not meet the requirements specified in Articles 43 and 44.

IV. If the objections against a candidate are accepted, the qualifying committee shall choose another from among the other candidates, and will order another selection to be held to choose a candidate to run against the other previously approved.

DUTIES OF A DISTRICT BISHOP

ARTICLE 48

I. Bishops shall supervise the districts under their care as part of a greater unit, which is the Apostolic Assembly. Their primary obligation is to strive for the preservation of the Apostolic Assembly and that the work under their charge be closely united to the work of other districts.

II. Supervising bishops shall be directly responsible for the work under their charge and should help organize the government of each local congregation in the most convenient manner, following the guidelines of the organizational system approved in this Constitution. They may intervene in the internal organization of the churches when deemed necessary.

III. They shall establish and organize new churches with the help of the ministers under their supervision.

IV. They shall not consider themselves independent in the exercise of their duties and therefore, must be subject to the authority of the General Board of Directors. They are required to submit bimonthly reports of their activities to the Bishop President.

V. They shall strive to see that all pastors under their care comply with the organizational requirements of the societies of men, women, youth, juniors, and Sunday school. District bishops shall also ensure that all pastors send their contributions for missionary work, percentages to the General Treasury, Christian Education Committee and any other agreed upon contributions.

VI. They shall ensure that all pastors and ministers under their supervision fulfill their respective tithing obligations. Supervising bishops themselves must set an example by sending their tithes to the General Treasury.

VII. They are responsible for their district's compliance with every agreement reached in General Conventions, Joint Meetings, meetings of the General Board of Directors, and Episcopal Meetings. Furthermore, district bishops shall comply with the annual pastoral evaluation.

VIII. They must submit a written report of their activities at each of their respective district conventions, accompanied by a corresponding statistical report.

IX. They shall advise pastors on how to carry out the tasks of local evangelism and opening of new areas to establish churches in conformity with the work plans approved by the General Board of Directors. Furthermore, they shall inform the Bishop President in writing about the annual results of their evangelism work.

X. They shall organize evangelistic activities, divine healing campaigns, fellowship services, and all types of activities with the goal of enhancing the spiritual and material well-being of their district.

XI. They shall strive to ensure the proper administration of all the funds of local churches and societies, Sunday school departments, and federations, as well as the district treasury.

XII. They shall comply with all of their obligations specified in the statutes of the federations of men, women, youth, and juniors.

XIII. They will work to ensure that in their districts, the official gazette of the Apostolic Assembly, as well as its expositors and other approved literature are distributed.

XIV. They shall strive to ensure that each church, is complying with the pastor's retirement plan, according to what is regulated in article 19, clause VII of this Constitution.

XV. They shall strive to ensure that the funds received, are deposited only for this plan. In his annual evaluation to the Bishop President, he will include the facts of the pastor's retirement plan.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF A DISTRICT BISHOP

ARTICLE 49

The attributions of district bishops are the following:

I. As a general rule, they shall change or remove pastors and ministers at district conventions or ministerial meetings. They have the right to appoint pastors or ministers in charge of new works, and to make all necessary ministerial changes. No ministerial changes or removals shall be made, however, without the prior authorization of the Bishop President.

II. Whenever a church is suddenly left without a pastor, he may assume its pastorate until the situation normalizes.

III. If the district is small and unable to support the bishop financially, he shall have the right to take the pastorate of a church, with the approval of the General Board of Directors.

IV. When the secretary or the treasurer of a district resigns, dies or is ceased of his position and there are still six months left in his period of function, with the approval of the Bishop President, the supervising bishop will call for a pastoral district meeting for the election of a new secretary or treasurer. If the remainder were less than six months, the Bishop Supervisor will designate a new secretary or treasurer, with the approval of the Bishop President.

V. Whenever a minister under his supervision fails to fulfill his ministerial duties or commits faults for which he should be ceased from the ministry, the district bishop shall solicit the help of two or more auxiliary elders and proceed in accordance with the chapter fifteenth, on trials, of this Constitution. The Bishop President shall receive prior notice of every trial, including an example explanation of the causes that motivated it.

VI. He can request before the district board of directors the removal of officials of the federations of men, women, youth, and juniors, who do not fulfill their obligations or, for justified reasons, cannot or should not remain in office.

VII. He shall preside over district conventions and sectorial or regional ministerial meetings. Bishops must be authorized by the Bishop President to convene an extraordinary district convention.

VIII. It is the duty of district bishops to approve the dedication of church buildings, which require prior authorization from the Bishop President.

IX. Supervising bishops who have served their term but are not reelected can run for the office of auxiliary elder, pastor a church, or any other district assignment.

X. The General Board of Directors is responsible for providing an adequate position to an outgoing supervising bishop who has not been reelected. Moreover, the General Board of Directors shall provide him with moral and spiritual support during the transition period as well as financial assistance for a period of no less than three months.

DUTIES OF AN AUXILIARY ELDER

ARTICLE 50

I. Auxiliary elders are those pastors who have been elected to assist the district bishop with the supervision of a sector.

II. Auxiliary elders are required to fulfill all commissions conferred to them by their district bishop, visit the churches under their jurisdiction to assess their development, and advise pastors as deemed necessary.

III. Under instruction from the district bishop, an auxiliary elder may assist a pastor with the organization of the local church.

IV. Auxiliary elders are not authorized to remove ministers nor convene ministerial meetings without prior authorization from their district bishop.

CHANGES, REMOVALS, AND CESSATIONS OF AUXILIARY ELDERS

ARTICLE 51

I. The district bishop may request the removal of an auxiliary elder who is unable to fulfill his obligations or otherwise demonstrates a lack of capacity or interest in the work he has been entrusted. In an emergency the district bishop must consult the matter with the Bishop President. Should the Bishop President approve it, the auxiliary elder shall be removed from his position and the district bishop shall then convene the sector ministers to elect a new auxiliary elder to fulfill the rest of the term.

II. Whenever there is a need to change an auxiliary elder from one sector to another, the district bishop shall request such change at a district convention. In an emergency, however, he may place the matter before the Bishop President and explain the reasons why he has requested such a change. The change shall take place if the Bishop President authorizes it.

III. Whenever an auxiliary elder vacates his office due to death, resignation, change, or cessation, the district bishop shall immediately convene all the ministers of the respective sector to elect a new auxiliary elder. This meeting shall be held with either the presence or authorization of the Bishop President.

IV. Whenever an auxiliary elder ceases to be a pastor and assumes a lesser position, he shall resign his position as an auxiliary elder. A substitute shall be named in accordance with the previous clause.

V. Whenever it is not possible to elect an auxiliary elder due to lack of qualified ministers, the district bishop may appoint one with the authorization of the Bishop President.

THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

ARTICLE 52

I. He shall collaborate with the district bishop, with whom he should work closely, assisting in all tasks having to do with the good functioning of the district's churches, ministers, and properties acquired for the use of the Apostolic Assembly.

II. He shall keep a registry of all real estate and a copy of title of every church building in his district which are used for the service of the Apostolic Assembly.

III. He shall forward copies of property documents of every duly and legally established church buildings to the General Secretariat of the Apostolic Assembly.

IV. He shall keep a registry of all ministers with: general information, date of baptism, date on which they received the Holy Spirit, date of initiation and ministerial ordination, and all data related to their careers, including the time they have dedicated to positions conferred. He must send copies of this data to the Bishop General Secretary.

V. He shall assist the District Bishop with the preparation of statistics that must be submitted to the Bishop General Secretary every two years, in order for these to be included in the Bishop President's General Convention report.

VI. He shall keep minutes at district conventions, including the financial reports given to him by the treasurer. He shall send a copy of the minutes to the Bishop President, Bishop General Secretary, Bishop General Treasurer, the district bishop and each pastor.

VII. He shall file all documents that can serve to write the history of the development of the work in his district. To that effect, he shall write minutes of those agreements reached at district conventions, ministerial meetings held within the district, meetings between the district bishop and the auxiliary elders, and emergency meetings.

VIII. He shall collaborate with the Bishop General Secretary as necessary so that all ministers and those initiated to the ministry have their documents in order: credentials, licenses, certificates of ordination, certificates of initiation, and other assignments. Although these documents are issued by the Bishop President and Bishop General Secretary, circumstances may arise in which he will be required to assist the Bishop General Secretary in these matters.

IX. The district secretary shall be elected with the same system used for the election of the district bishop.

X. To run for the office of district secretary, it is necessary that the candidate have at least four years of pastoral experience and be dedicated to a pastorate at the time of his election.

THE DISTRICT TREASURER

ARTICLE 53

I. The district treasurer shall be responsible for all funds placed under his care and disburse them only as agreed upon by General Conventions, meetings of the General Board of Directors, or corresponding district conventions. In addition, he shall make those disbursements authorized by the supervising bishop and the district board of directors.

II. He shall deposit those funds in a bank account under the name of "Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus", requiring the joint signature of the supervising bishop. Neither one of them shall use said funds for any other purpose.

III. He may also serve as the convention committee treasurer, but if someone else is appointed for that position, he shall participate in the disbursement of convention expenses, and file a copy of the financial report of that committee.

IV. He must give a report in each district convention or in ministerial meetings, and send copies to all pastors.

V. Upon termination of his term, he shall transfer all records and funds under his care to his successor in the presence of the District Bishop, or his representative, and the district secretary.

VI. To run for the office of district treasurer, it is required that the candidate have at least four years of pastoral experience and be dedicated to a pastorate at the time of his election.

VII. The district treasurer shall be elected with the same system used for the election of the district bishop.

ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 54

I. Pastors, evangelists working independently of established churches, and auxiliary elders, shall send tithes of their monthly income to the district treasurer to help pay for the expenditures of the district.

II. The supervising bishop shall meet annually with the district board of directors to prepare work plans and a budget to be presented to the pastors for analysis and approval. The district board of directors shall set the amount that each church shall contribute to meet the budget. This shall be done with the advice of the Bishop President.

III. The supervising bishop has the right: to receive a salary from the district treasury, financial help for an annual vacation, to be honored with Bishop's Day and received financial help for all approved expenses related to his administrative activities.

IV. The district bishop, the district board of directors, and the respective pastors shall meet annually to schedule the Elder's Day.

V. The district bishop can order the disbursements of funds for emergencies, which he shall report to the Bishop President.

VI. The supervising bishop shall meet annually with the district board of directors and respective pastors to set the amount that each church shall provide to increase the district fund, in order to meet the expenses generated by previously approved plans and projects. This task shall be performed with the advice of the Bishop President.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

ARTICLE 55

I. District conventions shall be held every two years at a place and date approved by the General Board of Directors. Those district conventions held every two years can be celebrated with either delegates or with the general membership. District conventions that take place every four years, will be with all the general membership and delegates.

II. The calendar of district conventions shall be formulated by the General Board of Directors and supervising bishops. Once each district bishop has received official communication

regarding the time and place of the district convention. He shall proceed to appoint a pro-convention committee and convoke the ministers under his supervision.

III. The district bishop, auxiliary elders, and pro-district convention committee shall agree on how to pay for expenditures of meals, lodging, and other disbursements of the district convention, in conformity with what has been agreed upon and approved in General Conventions.

IV. District conventions shall be presided over by their respective bishop, with the advice of the Bishop President or his representative.

V. The program of each district convention shall proceed in the following manner:

1. Inauguration.
2. Registration of ministers and delegates.
3. Appointment of commissions.
4. District bishop's activities report.
5. District secretaries report.
6. District treasurer's report.
7. Presentation of proposals.
8. Discussion of proposals.
9. Election of district officials: bishop, secretary, treasurer, and auxiliary elders (as they are due).
10. Commission reports.
11. General business.
12. Initiation and ordination of ministers.
13. Adjournment.

VI. The respective district bishop and pro-district convention committee are responsible for the progress, convocation, program, promotion, circulars, instructions, and arrangements for meals and lodging.

VII. In every convention, the treasurer of the pro-convention committee shall prepare a financial report and send copies to the district secretary for its inclusion in the minutes that the latter will send to all pastors. Agreements made in district conventions are effective only in the respective district.

VIII. District conventions cannot invalidate, disregard, or modify agreements reached at General Conventions or by decisions of the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly.

IX. Admittance to ministerial meetings at conventions is restricted to ministers without a current credential or license issued by the Apostolic Assembly. Those who are initiated to the ministry must have their current certificate of initiation.

ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

ARTICLE 56

I. Love for the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ shall compel every member of the Apostolic Assembly to contribute generously and spontaneously for its support and growth.

II. The pastor and local government shall meet annually to agree on a work plan and budget to be presented to inform the congregation.

III. The pastor and local government shall include in its budget the amount assigned for the district budget.

IV. It is the obligation of the members of each congregation to give their tithes to their local treasurer. Since the tithes belong to God, paying tithes does not exempt them from giving offerings whenever the need arises.

V. It is the duty of the local treasurer to receive and make the necessary entries of tithes, offerings, and other contributions for the support of the work of God. The local treasurer shall keep records of deposits and withdrawals and shall be responsible for the funds placed under his charge.

VI. The treasurer shall make the necessary payments to cover the monthly expenditures of the church, with prior authorization of the pastor.

VII. Whenever monthly offerings are not sufficient to cover ordinary church expenses, the pastor shall have the option to request financial assistance from the societies.

VIII. Additional funds received from offerings, contributions, and donations shall be used to cover the monthly expenditures of the church.

IX. The pastor's salary shall be based on the annual budget of the church's income. This salary can be a percentage or a fixed weekly or monthly amount, subject to the approval of the respective supervisor.

X. Annually or whenever deemed necessary, or at the request of the pastor, the district bishop, or the auxiliary elder authorized by the district bishop, shall meet with the assistant pastor and ministers to agree on the amount that the pastor should receive. This agreement will be made known to the church in a general meeting.

XI. Every pastor has the responsibility of supervising the administration of the tithes and offerings of the church. The tithes shall be used to pay his approved salary.

XII. The pastor shall have the right to use monies from the general fund of the church whenever the tithes received do not cover the total amount assigned to him.

XIII. A pastor who holds another job, not related to the Apostolic Assembly and is not dedicated exclusively to his pastorate shall have periodic agreements with his district bishop regarding the pastor's weekly financial support, subject to approval from the Bishop President. Whenever a pastor dedicates himself exclusively to his pastorate, he shall have the right to receive all the benefits stipulated in this article.

EIGHTEENTH CHAPTER

MINISTERIAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM

ARTICLE 57

I. Regardless of position, all ministers affiliated with the Apostolic Assembly are required to pay their tithes faithfully, even when they receive support from any treasury of the Apostolic Assembly.

II. Pastors and evangelists shall send their tithes of all their earnings to the district in which they work.

III. The officers of the General Board of Directors and the supervising bishops shall send their tithes to the General Treasury for their use as approved in General Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors.

IV. Missionaries supported by the Foreign Missions Committee shall pay their tithes in the manner authorized by the General Board of Directors.

NINETEENTH CHAPTER

THE MINISTERIAL BODY

MORAL AND SPIRITUAL OBLIGATIONS OF MINISTERS

ARTICLE 58

““This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a Bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the Church of God? Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”

“Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” I Timothy 3:1-7.

“If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful work as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:6-9.

Every minister should keep in mind that the only way to fulfill his mission is through an irreproachable personal conduct and blameless example. He should be a man of prayer and a firm believer in the Word of God. He should have clean thoughts and proceed with all purity when dealing with others, especially with those of the opposite gender. He should treat all members of his congregation with wisdom, love, and cleanliness, with concern for the material and spiritual needs of his fellow believers.

He should be active in and committed to his Christian duties. He should be serious, formal, honest, reliable, and trustworthy. He should manage church resources with honesty and rectitude so as not to bring reproach upon the ministerial body. He should lead his family in the way of the Lord, being loving and considerate to his wife and a good example for his children.

In his relations with other ministers, he should be guided by the highest Christian ethics and respect. He should obey his superiors, teach his subordinates, treat his fellow ministers with high esteem, and he should abstain from making criticisms that may damage the reputation of his brethren and fellow ministers. The minister must always keep in mind that his is the highest vocation on earth because of his responsibility to impress upon the believers under his care the spiritual principles that will determine their eternal destiny (Acts 6:1-3, 20:18-20; I Corinthians 4:1-2, 9-13; (II Corinthians 6:4-10; I Timothy 4:12-15, 5:21-22, 6:11-14; II Timothy 2:1-4, 22-26, 5:1-5; Titus 2:7-8, 15; I Peter 5:1-4).

INITIATION INTO THE MINISTRY

ARTICLE 59

I. Pastors shall observe the qualifications and good conduct of their male church members, to prove the latter's participation and faithfulness. After having notified the local ministry and the church, they may request that those brothers who have demonstrated vocation, and are willing to serve in the work of God, be considered for initiation into the ministry.

Each candidate must meet the following requirements:

1. He must be at least eighteen years old.
2. He must believe and practice the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. He must have been baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for at least three years.
4. He must have received the Gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
5. If married, his wife must have been baptized by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and also by the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
In addition, prior to the ordination of her husband, it is recommended that she take the approved courses of study by the Department of Christian Education.
6. He must have a good testimony in the church.
7. He must know how to read and write.
8. He must pay his tithes faithfully.
9. He must have been a faithful member for at least two years of the local church that is recommending his initiation to the ministry.
10. He must be in agreement with the doctrinal, economic, and organizational systems of the Apostolic Assembly.
11. He must be willing to undertake the necessary coursework for ordination. This requirement may be substituted by equivalent instruction from religious institutions approved by the Department of Christian Education.
12. He must have been approved by an examination commission prior to being initiated.
13. Before being initiated to the ministry, he must have evangelized two people that were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

II. The candidate must satisfactorily answer a special questionnaire, which must be signed by the local pastor and district bishop.

CANDIDATE EXAMINATION COMMISSION

ARTICLE 60

I. The district board of directors shall appoint an examination commission comprised of three pastors. Only those candidates that fulfill the requirements and are approved by this commission shall be initiated or ordained.

II. Examinations for initiation and ordination shall take place prior to district conventions. The district secretary shall send the relevant documentation to the General Secretary, two months before the date of initiation or ordination.

III. The ceremony of initiation and ordination shall take place at either a district convention or a ministerial meeting. The ceremony shall be officiated by the Bishop President or his representative, who shall designate the presbyters who will participate in the ceremony.

IV. For those who were unable to attend the meeting described in the previous clause, or whose initiation or ordination is indispensable to meet demands of the work of God, the ceremony may be held in a district ministerial meeting, with the prior approval of the Bishop President.

V. Pastors should make sure to present those initiated to the ministry before their congregation and indicate to the church the activities to which the newly initiated will be assigned.

TRIAL PERIOD FOR ORDINATION

ARTICLE 61

I. In accordance with instructions from the Word of God (I Timothy 3:10), an initiated must be proven before being ordained into the ministry. Two years is the minimum probationary period for candidates to the ministry. After such period, if the pastor and the Supervising Bishop agree, the candidate may be examined to determine if he is ready for ordination and to assume greater responsibilities.

II. The purpose of this trial period is to enable the candidate to show his vocation as well as to acquire the necessary experience in tasks assigned to him by his pastor. At the same time, the candidate can acquire the biblical and ministerial knowledge that is necessary to become a good minister of the Lord.

III. The initiated to the ministry, shall not preside from the official pulpit in the local church. Whenever services are held in auditoriums, halls, hotels, camp retreats and other places, the corresponding authority shall have the option of giving a special and temporary permit to preside from the pulpit, if it's necessary.

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

ARTICLE 62

I. If his pastor and district bishop agree, the candidate can be proposed for ordination at the end of the trial period of at least two years.

II. In order to be ordained, the candidate must meet the following requirements:

1. He must have evidence of having taken the coursework approved by the Department of Christian Education, indispensable for the ministry.

2. The candidate must have served satisfactorily in his local church for at least two years (or have served satisfactorily in his local church for at least one year, after having served for at least one year in another), and be willing to remain in his local church for two years after his ordination unless a need arises, which shall be resolved by his pastor and corresponding bishop.
3. He must have faithfully paid his tithes.
4. He must have satisfactorily answered all questions in the respective questionnaire, in addition to those questions regarding the doctrine, economic system, and organization of the Apostolic Assembly.
5. He must have been approved by the examination commission.
6. He must be in agreement with the economic system, doctrine, and organization of the Apostolic Assembly.
7. Before being ordained to the ministry, he must have evangelized and led to baptism in water at least three people, bringing to five the total number of baptized people since his initiation.

MINISTERS IN RECESS

ARTICLE 63

- I. Whenever a minister has justified reasons to stop exercising his ministry temporarily, he must request written permission from his supervising bishop. Such permission shall define the terms and conditions to which the minister will be subject.
- II. Whenever a supervising bishop deems it necessary to place one of his ministers on temporary recess, he shall first present the case to the District Board of Directors for its study, and then to the Bishop President for approval. This decision shall be put in writing and define the terms and conditions to which he will be subject.
- III. Ministers in recess must fulfill all their obligations: pay their tithes to their district treasury, and cooperate as much as they can for the benefit of the Lord's work, keeping in mind that their position requires a conduct consistent with their vocation.
- IV. At the end of a minister's authorized recess, he must inform his respective district bishop of his willingness to resume his ministry and accept whatever duty is assigned to him.
- V. In the cases listed in the previous clause, it is required to have a letter signed by the pastor of the church where the minister spent his recess, which shall attest to the minister's conduct and activity during his recess.
- VI. Those ministers who at the end of their recess do not accept the responsibility assigned to them and refuse to continue in the active ministry shall be ceased from all their functions. To be reinstated, they must serve under the direction of a pastor for at least one year, and be recommended for reinstatement by both that pastor and the corresponding supervising bishop. These ministers can be accepted again in the ministry provided that they did not commit any unworthy acts during their recess.
- VII. Those ministers who without authorization have abandoned their ministerial duties shall appear before their district convention, which will require them to fulfill their duties.
- VIII. Whenever a minister leaves his local church due to a change in residence, it is the receiving pastor who determines whether or not to include him in the local government.

TWENTIETH CHAPTER
ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

PASTORS

ARTICLE 64

I. Pastors are those ministers who have the calling to shepherd God's flock. Any minister who assumes the responsibility of pastoring a congregation, large or small, for a definite or indefinite period of time, shall be responsible before God and his superiors for the souls of the believers under his care.

They will instruct their members in accordance with the Word of the Lord regarding their faith and obligations towards God and the Church (Hebrews 13:17).

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A PASTOR

1. Be an ordained minister and have the moral and spiritual qualities prescribed by the Word of God (I Timothy 3: 1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-3).
2. Be at least twenty two years old.
3. Have served satisfactorily in the ministry of the Apostolic Assembly for a period of four years.
4. Have served satisfactorily in the ministry of the Apostolic Assembly as a co-pastor or assistant pastor for one year.
5. Marital Status: Married.
6. His wife must have a good testimony, be baptized for at least three years, and received the gift of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
7. Be faithful in his tithing.
8. Be in agreement with the doctrinal, organizational, economic, and disciplinary system of the Apostolic Assembly.
9. Be in agreement with the provisional nature of his two-year appointment, as prescribed by Article 48, Clause VII. He must also agree with the stipulations of Article 49, Clause I of this Constitution.
10. Be approved by his pastor and district bishop, with approval of the Bishop President.

DUTIES OF THE PASTORS

ARTICLE 65

I. Pastors shall organize their congregations in the best possible manner following the guidelines of this Constitution. They shall inform their superiors about the condition of their churches and the measures taken to organize them, and request assistance and guidance when necessary.

II. Pastors shall establish regular church services as necessary and administer to their parishioners the spiritual nourishment and instruction contained in the Word of the Lord to prepare the latter for their Christian life. Furthermore, pastors shall establish Sunday schools for children and adults, and make an effort to teach them the Word of God by all available means (Acts 20:26-27).

III. Pastors shall organize in their respective churches departments of men, women, youth, and juniors, which shall be governed by their respective bylaws. Every pastor is responsible to see that the societies of his church cooperate in the approved manner with the respective federations and confederations.

IV. No pastor can assume responsibility over a church if he disagrees with the doctrinal principles and the economic and organizational system of the Apostolic Assembly. If during the practice of his ministry, a pastor shall reach a different opinion regarding specific doctrinal points or the organizational system, he shall present his objections to the district bishop, who will consider them and determine a course of action, after consulting with the Bishop President. We believe that Christian ethics justifies us in requiring that every minister who disagrees with the doctrinal principles or organizational system of our Church, resign from his duties, and abstain from causing damage, dishonor, and division within the church. Whoever acts in this manner, shall be called by the constituted authorities of the Apostolic Assembly to consider his reasons and make a determination to apply justice to the case.

V. Whenever a pastor acts against the doctrinal principles, economic system, or organizational system of the Apostolic Assembly, or are otherwise cause harm to the Church, he shall be judged by the respective supervising bishop. The pastor can be ceased from the pastorate and should surrender the local church under his care, if the supervising bishop and the Bishop President should determine.

VI. Pastors shall strive to see that their churches comply with the monthly remittances to the General Treasury of tithes, percentages, projects, and other special offerings approved by the General Board of Directors. They shall also strive to see that the departments comply with remittances of percentages, projects, and other special offerings approved by the General Board of Directors. Those pastors and ministers in charge of churches who do not fulfill these obligations shall be required to do so by the corresponding authorities. If they persist in neglecting these agreements, their supervising bishops must take the necessary measures to correct the situation.

VII. All pastors must attend district and General Conventions or appoint a minister of their church to represent them. Travel expenses to attend conventions shall be borne by the local church, according to its financial possibilities.

VIII. Pastors are required to comply with all agreements reached at district and General Conventions and the meetings of the General Board of Directors.

IX. Pastors are required to host their visiting superiors in the best possible manner. Pastors shall duly present their superiors before the congregation, allowing them to preach and announce the official business at hand. Pastors shall also show interest in lodging and attending his fellow ministers, regardless of their rank. (Hebrews 13:1-2).

X. Pastors are required to care for church buildings, church furniture, parsonages, and all other property necessary for worship. Any misuse of these is prohibited.

XI. Whenever a congregation lacks their own church building, the pastor shall do all that is possible for its construction. He will reach agreements with his church and respective supervising bishop regarding: the acquisition of land, materials, the acquisition and administration of funds to achieve such goal.

XII. Pastors must call to and preside over the general business meetings of their churches. These meetings shall be held at least two times a year or more times if the pastor or the supervision deems it necessary. The report distributed may be limited to a meeting composed of local church government, leaders of auxiliary groups and Sunday School personnel. Only those members with full fellowship in the church (being faithful in their spiritual and financial obligations) have the right to speak and vote in the business matters of the local church.

XIII. Pastors must be willing to be transferred to another field of work whenever the need of the work requires it and the corresponding agreements have been reached.

XIV. No minister shall intervene in the internal affairs of a church, which he previously pastored, unless he has received an official request by the corresponding authority.

XV. Pastors must frequently review the financial books of the local church treasury, Sunday school, societies, and other existing funds.

XVI. All pastors, within and outside organized districts, shall use and distribute in their churches the Official Gazette, expositors, and other teaching materials edited by the Apostolic Assembly.

ATTRIBUTES OF THE PASTORS

ARTICLE 66

I. Pastors have the authority to preach the Word of God and to instruct, admonish and discipline the members of their churches (I Thessalonians 5:14; II Timothy 4:1-2). Pastors shall require members to fulfill their Christian duties and observe the doctrine of the Lord. Every Pastor shall see himself as a steward of the Lord's inheritances. He shall act with neither lordship nor despotism, be gentle towards everyone, apt to teach, long-suffering, patient, and a model to the congregation.

II. Pastors are responsible for imposing disciplinary measures to correct the faults and disobediences that their members may have committed against the doctrine. Whenever sin is committed that the Word of God condemns, pastors may destitute members if the causes or sins deserve it. In such a case, however, pastors must act with justice and close adherence to the Word of God, under the guidance of their supervising elder.

III. Pastors are required to teach, comply with, and enforce the doctrinal principles of the Apostolic Assembly, in conformity with the present Constitution and its regulations. Pastors are also required to administer the sacraments with the most reverence and solemnity.

IV. Pastors also have the right to require from their local ministry, the fulfillment of duties indicated by the Word of God and by agreements reached by the local church government in benefit of the work of God.

V. Pastors have a right to receive a worthy salary from the church they pastor.

VI. Pastors have a right to paid yearly two-week vacation.

VII. Pastors have a right to receive a minimum of two weeks salary per year to be used for their vacation expenses.

VIII. Pastors have a right to a “Pastor’s Day Celebration” every first Sunday of June or on a date that is most convenient for the church.

IX. If the economic possibilities of the church allow, pastors have a right to a medical insurance plan for him, his wife and children under the age of eighteen.

X. According to the financial abilities of the church, all church related expenses shall be covered.

CO-PASTORS AND ASSISTANT PASTORS

ARTICLE 67

I. Co-pastors and assistant pastors shall be able to function in a church only at the request of its pastor.

II. Co-pastors and assistant pastors are designated to assist the pastor in the tasks that he assigns to them. Therefore, they may not exercise greater authority nor undertake other functions than those conferred by the pastor.

III. The pastor shall be the one to designate the ministers who will function as co-pastor and assistant pastor. This designation shall be made at the end of December of each year, for them to function during the following year. The designated ministers may occupy the position again for another year, should the pastor deem it convenient.

IV. Co-pastors and assistant pastors shall fulfill the duties assigned to them by their pastor, and cooperate with him in the administration and good progress of the church. They shall demonstrate interest and good will in their assigned work, so as to obtain a good standing and experience, which will prepare them to perform other tasks in the work of the Lord.

V. They shall strive to attend all church services, and participate in them as instructed by their pastor.

VI. During a temporary absence of their pastor, the co-pastors and assistant pastors may assume the direction of the church, in accordance with their pastor’s instructions and conditions.

VII. Co-pastors and assistant pastors must be willing to work in other fields of work, whenever the circumstances require it. They may continue in the same category or take direct charge of a congregation.

VIII. Co-pastors and assistant pastors shall be respected by the fellow ministers of their local church. If the number of members and the possibilities and needs of the congregation require it, they may dedicate themselves exclusively to the work of God, and be supported from church funds, in accordance with local agreements.

EVANGELISTS

ARTICLE 68

I. Evangelists are those ministers called by God, and authorized by their immediate authorities, to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, especially among unbelievers, and to open new works.

Evangelists must meet the following requirements, besides having letters of recommendation from his pastor and supervising bishop:

1. Have worked satisfactorily as an ordained minister in their local church for at least one year.
2. To become a sector evangelist, it is required that he must have worked satisfactory for a year as either an evangelist in a local church or as an assistant pastor.
3. To become a district evangelist, it is required that he must have worked satisfactorily for two years as either a sector evangelist or as an assistant pastor.
4. To become a national evangelist, it is required that he must have worked satisfactorily either for four years as a district evangelist or for two years as a pastor.

II. The rank of an evangelist varies with the place where he exercises his ministry. Whenever an evangelist works within an established church, he will be lesser in rank to the pastor, under whose authority he will be. However, when he works in a location where there is no pastor, he will have the corresponding faculties of a pastor.

III. Evangelists are required to work continuously towards the salvation of souls, as this is the only way that they can fulfill the duties of their ministry and honor their vocation (II Timothy 4:5). Thus, they shall dedicate the greater part of their time to preaching.

IV. Whenever evangelists work under a pastorate, they shall have the faculties that the pastor allows them to administer according to their capacity.

V. Whenever the evangelists work in areas without a pastor, they shall be responsible for the souls that are converted, caring for these souls with the same responsibilities and rights of pastors, and for administering baptisms and other ordinances. They shall create the corresponding files of the mission under their care, and shall work towards the formal establishment of the church. Pastors have a right to receive a worthy salary from the church they pastor.

VI. Evangelists who work in areas without a pastor shall keep in constant communication with their supervisor, and work so that the groups converted to the gospel become formal churches. When that happens, the supervising bishop shall determine whether the evangelist who established the church will be in charge of it or be assigned to a new fieldwork. Pastors have a right to paid yearly two- week vacation.

VII. The correspondent authorities shall determine the type of financial assistance given to evangelists under their supervision.

VIII. Local evangelists working in a new field shall be advised by their pastor until the district board of directors and pastor agree on when that new field shall be declared a church and who will be its designated pastor.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ARTICLE 69

I. Ordained ministers are those that assist pastors with the internal management of the church and other assignments. As such, they must strive to maintain mutual respect and a spirit of Christian fellowship among ministers and church members.

II. Whenever difficulties arise between pastors and their congregations, ministers must remain neutral, keep their place, and work for a spirit of unity. Ministers are absolutely forbidden from fostering divisions and separate groups within their churches.

III. Ministers are required to make home visits to members of their churches to assess the physical and spiritual condition of all members. Ministers must give an activities report to their pastors and inform them of cases which require pastoral intervention.

IV. Pastors must give ministers the opportunity for the latter to engage in activities suited for their ministry and vocation. If these activities are performed satisfactorily, they may be recommended by their pastors for positions of greater responsibility.

V. Ordained ministers must remain in their local church for two years following their ordination, unless a need arises, which shall be resolved by the pastor and corresponding district bishop.

VI. Whenever an ordained minister changes churches without a justified cause and before having completed his two years of service, he shall be required by the corresponding authorities.

INITIATED INTO THE MINISTRY

ARTICLE 70

I. Pastors shall observe the qualifications and good conduct of their male church members, to prove the latter's good participation and faithfulness. When deemed appropriate, pastors can request from their supervisors the initiation into the ministry of those members considered to be worthy candidates, after verifying that the candidates meet the requirements of Article 59 of this Constitution.

II. Those initiated into the ministry must show their vocation and sincere interest by respectfully and faithfully complying with all commissions and tasks assigned to them by their pastors during the probationary period (2 Timothy 3:10).

III. Pastors may request from their supervisors the ordination of those initiated to the ministry who, for a minimum of two years, have had a satisfactory performance in their activities and effort in local tasks. These candidates for ordination must meet all requirements in Articles 61 and 62 of this Constitution (Acts 6:1, 3).

IV. Those initiated into the ministry must serve their probationary period in the same church where they were initiated into the ministry. If they fail to do so and change churches for whatever reason, the receiving pastor shall have discretion to determine whether to accept them in the local government and allow them to continue their probationary period.

V. Those initiated to the ministry that are not approved for ordination, shall submit their certificate of initiation to the supervising bishop unless the candidate's pastor requests an extension, in writing, during their probation.

TWENTY FIRST CHAPTER
GOVERNMENT OF LOCAL CHURCH

ARTICLE 71

- I. Each church shall have a local church government headed by the pastor and his assistants, which can be the co-pastor, the assistant pastor, one or more evangelists, ordained ministers, those initiated into the ministry, the secretary and the treasurer.
- II. Pastors may request their assistants to attend as many meetings as deemed necessary. In special cases, pastors can convene two or three of their more experienced assistants to resolve delicate or emergency matters.
- III. Whenever a minister changes membership from one church to another, the pastor of the new church will determine whether to admit the minister into the local government.
- IV. In sessions of the local government, only its faithful members and district supervisor shall have the right to speak and vote (article 65, clause XII).
- V. Ministers and those initiated into the ministry must fulfill all their obligations:
 1. Pay their tithes to the corresponding treasurer, and cooperate as much as they can for the benefit of the Lord's work.
 2. They must keep in mind that their position requires a conduct consistent with their vocation. If they neglect these obligations, they can be deprived of their privileges.

SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

ARTICLE 72

- I. The local secretary can be any of the ordained ministers or those initiated into the ministry, capable of serving in such a position. When necessary, any qualified member in good standing may serve as secretary.
- II. It is the duty of the local secretary to keep files and registry books of baptisms, dedications of children, marriages, deaths, and other historical notes of interest and useful.

TREASURER OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

ARTICLE 73

- I. The local treasurer can be any of the ordained ministers or those initiated into the ministry, faithful and capable of serving in such a position. When necessary, any qualified faithful member may serve as treasurer.
- II. The local treasurer must receive and record all tithes, offerings, and other contributions for the work of the Lord, as well as all expenditures. The local treasurer is responsible for all funds placed under his care.

III. The local treasurer must submit to his pastor a written monthly report of the financial condition of the funds under his charge. In addition, in general meetings of the local church, the treasurer must provide a detailed report of all income and expenditures for that period, including information about how the funds were allocated.

IV. Each month the local treasurer must send to the General Treasury the tithes of the previous month's tithing income. The treasurer must also send whatever dues have been assigned to his church by the district bishop or the General Board of Directors.

V. The treasurer can only make those expenditures that have been authorized by the pastor or a general meeting of the church.

VI. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in a bank account under the name of "Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus." Such account must require the joint signature of the treasurer and the pastor.

VII. With prior authorization of the pastor, the treasurer shall make all the necessary disbursements to cover the church's monthly expenditures.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE LOCAL SECRETARY AND TREASURER

ARTICLE 74

I. The pastor shall appoint the local secretary and treasurer to serve respectively for a one-year term, with prior consent of the district bishop. These appointments must be made annually in the month of December.

II. Whenever deemed necessary for justified reasons, the pastor can request the resignation of either the treasurer or secretary, and appoint a substitute to complete the designated term. In these cases, the pastor must consult with the supervising bishop for these changes to be ratified.

TWENTY SECOND CHAPTER

DISCIPLINE FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

ARTICLE 75

I. All members of the Apostolic Assembly accepted into any of the local churches affiliated with this religious corporation shall comply with the doctrine established by our Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and obey this Constitution.

II. All people who believe and accept the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and are members of the Apostolic Assembly, have the right to the privileges and prerogatives of the Church. These privileges and prerogatives cannot be withheld unless a member becomes unworthy and acts contrary to our principles of doctrine, discipline, organizational and economic.

III. A person who violates the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ becomes unworthy of belonging to the Apostolic Assembly. However, this person may not be expelled from the Church without a

previous legal trial, with all due formalities, during which proof must be presented in the light of the Word of God that such violation makes the member unworthy of communion in the Apostolic Assembly.

IV. Individuals who have been baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ in other religious groups that desire membership of the Apostolic Assembly, shall sign an application which confirms their belief and accept to practice the doctrine, discipline, economic and organizational system of the Apostolic Assembly. This shall be submitted to the local church government where they desire to congregate.

V. Beliefs and Values

1. Human Sexuality - 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 homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4) We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

2. Family Relationships - We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for initiation and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

3. Abortion - We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

VI. All people belonging to the Apostolic Assembly must live a life of holiness and honesty. We therefore warn that the following activities are considered a sin: Immorality, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco, unwholesome entertainment, lack of consecration and church attendance, and anything that tends to destroy the humility and spirituality of the individual.

VII. Members of the Apostolic Assembly must abstain from the use of rings, jewelry, facial makeup, and costly or immodest apparel. They must also avoid all forms of ostentation and vanity.

VIII. Members of the Apostolic Assembly must consider that their bodies are holy and that the Holy Spirit dwells in them. For this reason, they should abstain from fornication, adultery and lasciviousness. Accordingly, it is recommended that courtships be conducted with all honesty, respect, and fear of the Lord. Married Christians must render due respect and mutual consideration as recommended by the Sacred Scriptures.

IX. Members of the Apostolic Assembly must be reverent and keep their composure during church services. During worship services, men must uncover their heads and women must cover their heads with an appropriate veil (1 Corinthians 11:4-7; Psalms 100:4). Women must neither cut nor plait their hair.

X. All members of the Apostolic Assembly must demonstrate their love for the work of the Lord by tithing and giving offerings to meet the needs of the same, "not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver" (1 Timothy 6:7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

XI. All members of the Apostolic Assembly must demonstrate their obedience to God and be subject to the higher authorities of the Church, for these have been placed by God to watch over the well-being of all members (Romans 13: 1; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:11-12).

XII. Whenever a member of the church changes residence, he or she can join a congregation of the Apostolic Assembly in the new place of residence or in the nearest location.

XIII. All members of the Apostolic Assembly that change residence shall carry a transfer letter signed by the pastor and present it to the pastor or minister in charge of the new church that the member intends to join. The transfer letter shall indicate whether the member has a temporary suspension of his or her rights. Pastors receiving members under such conditions must adhere to the indications of transfer letter.

XIV. Members of the Apostolic Assembly who may be traveling for pleasure or business shall carry a letter of recommendation signed by their pastor, and present it to the pastor of the church where they may visit.

XV. In cities with more than one congregation of the Apostolic Assembly, members wishing to change membership from one church to another must first request a transfer letter. This letter will be given only after there has been an agreement between the pastors of the respective churches.

TWENTY THIRD CHAPTER

PROCEDURES TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

ARTICLE 76

I. Proposed-initiatives are the instrument to amend, create or eliminate articles of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly and these must initially be submitted to the General Secretary who, in due order, shall

present them before the ministerial meeting of the General Convention, for study if they should receive an initial process resolution.

Those proposed-initiatives approved by a vote to receive an initial process resolution shall follow the legal revision process, as established in Articles 34 and 76 of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly. The General Board of Directors shall appoint a Revision Commission. Said Commission shall be formed by five ministers and shall be chaired by the Bishop Vice-president to process all proposed-initiatives previously approved by initial process resolution of the ministerial meeting of the General Convention. Proposed-initiatives may not be eliminated at any stage of the current process, except by vote of the attending ministerial body in session at a General Convention.

II. As a general rule, each proposal to reform the Constitution must be sufficiently studied with respect to its proposed amendments or additions. The Revision Commission shall conduct a detailed analysis of all proposals and check whether they violate the word of God or any civil laws. Afterwards, this commission shall deliver them and its recommendations to the General Board of Directors for the latter's analysis and commentary.

III. Once the General Board of Directors has analyzed and commented on all the proposed-initiatives to the Constitution and recommendations submitted by the Revision Commission, the General Board of Directors shall present them to the Joint Meeting for further consideration and recommendations.

IV. All recommendations on proposed-initiatives to the Constitution, previously presented to the Joint Meeting shall be included in the official agenda of the following General Convention, at which time the proposals can be rectified, renewed, ratified or eliminated by a resolution of the pastoral vote.

V. All members of the General Board of Directors, district bishops, elders and pastors have the right to propose a maximum of five amendments per year to the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly.

Amendments or proposed-initiatives shall be presented in writing during General Conventions, District Conventions, or whenever the General Board of Directors deems it necessary. All proposed- initiatives shall initially be submitted to the General Secretary of the Apostolic Assembly, who is responsible for their legal processing as established in Articles 34 and 76 of this constitution.

TWENTY FOURTH CHAPTER

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

1. THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is one, universal and indivisible, and composed of all men regardless of nationality, language, race or custom, who have accepted our Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and have been baptized into His Body by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13). The members of the Church are united by the bonds of a common faith and love. The flag or banner of the Church is the Name of Jesus Christ before whose emblem the Church marches gallantly as an army on parade (Song of Solomon 6: 10).

2. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

We believe there is only one God who has manifested Himself to the world in various forms throughout the ages. He has specially revealed Himself as Father in the creation of the universe, as Son in the redemption of humanity, and as the Holy Spirit pouring out in the hearts of believers.

This God is the Creator of everything that exist, whether visible or invisible. He is eternal, infinite in power, and Holy in His nature, attributes, and purpose. He possesses an absolute and indivisible divinity. He is Infinite in His Immensity, inconceivable in His manner of being, and indescribable in essence. Since an infinite mind can only be comprehended by itself, no one can completely know Him but Himself. He has neither body nor parts; therefore, He is free of any limitations. The first commandment of all is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Mark 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4). "But to us there is but one God..." (1 Corinthians 8:6).

3. JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was born miraculously from the womb of the Virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit, and He is, at the same time, the One and only true God (Romans 9:5; 1 John 5:20). The God of the Old Testament took upon Himself human form (Isaiah 60:13). "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14). "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (1 Timothy 3:16).

We believe that in Jesus Christ, God's divine attributes and human nature were combined in a perfect and incomprehensible form. He was human through Mary, in whose womb He took the form of man. He was divine through the Holy Spirit who fathered Him in Mary. Thus, He is called the Son of God and Son of man. Therefore, we believe that Jesus Christ is God "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Colossians 2:9) We also believe that the Bible makes known all His attributes. He is the everlasting Father and, at the same time, a child born unto us (Isaiah 9:6).

He is the Creator of all things (Colossians 1: 16-17; Isaiah 45:18). He is Omnipresent (John 3:13; Deuteronomy 4:39). He performed wonders as the God Almighty (Luke 5:24-26; Psalms 86:10). He has power over the seas (Mark 4:37-39; Psalms 107:29-30). He is always the same (Hebrews 13:8; Psalms 102:27).

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as promised by God in the Old Testament and as poured out after the glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sends it (Joel 2:28-29; John 7:37-39, 14:16-26; Acts 2:14, 16-18).

Furthermore, we believe that the demonstration that the person has been baptized with the Holy Spirit are the new tongues or languages in which the believer can speak. And this sign applies also in our time.

We also believe that the Holy Spirit is power that enables us to testify of Christ (Acts 1: 8). The Holy Spirit helps us develop a Christian character more pleasing to God (Galatians 5:22-25). The same Spirit endows men with gifts for the edification of the Church (Romans 12:68; I Corinthians 12:1-12; Ephesians 4:7-13). We do not believe, that any man has the power to impart the gifts of God, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." (I Corinthians 12:11) "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." (Ephesians 4:7)

All members of the Apostolic Assembly must seek the Holy Spirit and strive to live constantly in the Spirit, as recommended in Romans 8:5-16, Ephesians 5:18, and Colossians 3:5.

5. BAPTISM IN WATER

We believe in baptism in water, by immersion in the Name of Jesus Christ and that it should be administered by an ordained minister. Baptism should be by immersion because only in this way can it represent the death of man unto sin, thus bearing similarity to the death of Christ (Romans 6:15). Baptism should be in the name of Jesus Christ because this was the practice of the Apostles and ministers who baptized during the early period of the Church, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures (Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:6, 22:16).

6. THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe in the literal practice of the Lord's Supper, which He himself instituted (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

This ordinance shall make use of unleavened bread that represents the sinless body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and unfermented wine that represents the blood of Christ, which consummated our redemption. The object of this ceremony is to commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and to announce the day in which He shall return to the world, at the same time to give testimony of the communion that exists among believers. No person shall participate in this ceremony who is not a faithful church member or is not in full communion; if a person does participate without fulfilling these requirements, he or she will be unable to discern the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10: 15-17, 11:27-28; 2 Corinthians 13:5).

After partaking of a supper with His apostles, the Lord washed their feet, an act that marveled them at that moment. When He was done, the Master explained to His Disciples the significance of this act, and recommended that they wash one another's feet. The Church practices this act in combination or indistinctly with the Lord's Supper as an act of humility and Christian fellowship (1 Timothy 5:10).

7. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ, which took place on the third day after His death as recorded in the Gospels (Matthew 27:60-64; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-12, 36-44; John 20:12-20). This resurrection had been foretold by the prophets (Isaiah 53:12), and is necessary for our hope and justification (1 Corinthians 15:20; Romans 4:25).

8. THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND UNJUST

We believe that there will be a literal resurrection of the dead in Christ and that they will be given a glorified and spiritual body in which they will live forever in the presence of the Lord (John 5:29; Acts 24:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Job 19:25-27; Psalms 17:15; I Corinthians 15:35-54). Christians who are living when Christ comes to take up His Church will likewise be transformed and taken to live forever in glory in the presence of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:18; I Corinthians 15:51-52).

We also believe that there will be resurrection of the unjust, but that these will awake from the tombs only to be judged and hear the harsh sentence that will make them heirs of eternal fire (Matthew 25:26; John 5:29; Revelation 20:12-15; Mark 9:44; Daniel 12:2).

9. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE MILLENNIUM

We believe that the Church, composed of the dead in Christ and the faithful living on earth at the time of the Rapture, will be lifted up to meet the Lord in the air and to take part in the wedding feast of the Lamb of God. Thereafter, the Church will descend with the Lord to earth to pass judgment upon the nations and reign with Christ for a thousand years. This period will be preceded by the Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon, which the Lord will end upon descending on the Mount of Olives with all His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Philippians 3:20-21; Isaiah 65:17-25; Daniel 7:27; Micah 4:13; Zechariah 14:1-16; Matthew 5:5; Romans 11:25-27; Rev. 20:15).

10. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

We believe the Lord has prepared a judgment day in which all men who have died without Christ and those living upon the earth at the time of its verification will participate. This judgment, also known as the "Judgment of the Great White Throne," will take place at the end of the Millennium. The Church will not be judged on this occasion, but will itself intervene in the judgment rendered to all men in accordance with the things written in the books that God has prepared.

At the end of this judgment, the present heavens and the earth will be renewed by fire and the faithful will dwell in the New Jerusalem. The Christian dispensation will have come to its end and God will be all things in all (Daniel 7:8-10, 14, 18; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Romans 2:16, 14:10; 1 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:5-15, 21:16).

11. DIVINE HEALING

We believe that God has the power to heal all our physical illnesses, if that is His will, and that divine healing is a result of the sacrifice of Christ, for He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). The healing of the body takes place through a combination of the faith of the believer and power in the Name of Jesus Christ, whose Name is invoked when praying for

the sick. The Lord Jesus Christ promised that those who believed in His Name would lay hands on the sick and the sick would recover (Mark 16:18). The sick shall be anointed with oil in the Name of Jesus Christ by ordained ministers for the Lord to fulfill His promises (John 14:13; Psalm 103:14; Luke 9:13; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14-16).

We believe that divine healing is obtained through faith. If, on occasion, a brother needs to submit himself to the care and ministrations of medical science, he should not be criticized by his fellow church members, who must weigh the matter and consider themselves lest they be condemned by what they themselves approve (Romans 14:22). We recommend that all members and ministers of our Church abstain from improper criticisms of medical science, whose advancements cannot be denied and originate in the ability that God has given men to discover the secrets of the functioning of the human organism. We also advise against opposing government campaigns for hygiene, vaccination, and cleanliness; instead, we advise that they cooperate in these campaigns decidedly wherever possible.

12. HOLINESS

We believe that all members of the Body of Christ should be holy; that is, separated from sin and consecrated for the service of the Lord. For this reason they must abstain from all practices, entertainment, and filthiness of flesh and spirit (Leviticus 19:2; II Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:16).

However, in the practice of holiness we believe that we must avoid all extremes, asceticisms and deprivations with reputation of wisdom in self-imposed worship and humility, and unsparing severity of the body, all which are but a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ (Colossians 2:17, 23). Regarding food, we note that "every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:4).

13. MATRIMONY

We believe that marriage is sacred, since it was instituted in the beginning, and honorable among all people (Genesis 2:21-24; Matthew 19:15; Hebrews 13:4). Marriages must be verified in accordance with the laws of the respective countries, and later solemnized in church in accordance with approved practices. Couples who have not legalized their union and wish to be baptized must first meet the requirements of civil laws.

We believe that when a couple unites in marriage, they should remain united as long as both live. When either one dies, the other is free to remarry and does not commit sin if he or she remarries in the Lord (Romans 7:13; 1 Corinthians 7:39).

We also believe that marriages shall take place solely among faithful church members. No minister shall perform a marriage ceremony between a church member and an unbeliever. Church members in full communion who marry unbelievers shall be judged by their pastors.

14. CHURCH AND STATE

We believe in the separation of Church and State and that neither should intervene in the internal affairs of the other since this fulfills the biblical precept "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17).

Christians should participate in civil activities according to their abilities and political inclinations, always reflecting their own personal ideas and opinions, and not those of the Church. The Apostolic Assembly is always neutral and has room for men of all political creeds. Nevertheless, all Christians must obey civil authorities and the laws and ordinances issued by these authorities, unless these laws contradict religious principles or force Christians to act against their conscience (Romans 13:1-7).

15. MILITARY SERVICE

The Apostolic Assembly recognizes human government as ordained by God (Romans 13:1-2). Therefore, the Apostolic Assembly admonishes its members to affirm loyalty to their country. As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christians must obey His precepts and commandments as follows: "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil" (Matthew 5:39). "Follow peace with all men" (Hebrews 12:14). (See also Romans 12:19; Matthew 26:52; James 5:6; Revelation 13: 10). Given these scriptures, it is believed and interpreted that the followers of our Lord Jesus Christ shall neither destroy someone else's property nor take someone's life.

It is considered a sin to participate in acts contrary to those recommended by the Holy Word of God, after having received the knowledge of the truth and having been made new creatures in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 6:4-9, 10:26-27).

All members, therefore, are advised to follow their conscience in freely serving their country, whether in time of peace or war, and in any capacity no matter how hard or dangerous it may be, as long as it is of NONCOMBATANT CHARACTER. Doctrine teaches us to pray that we may always have men of God in authority. It teaches us to pray for them that they may receive divine guidance so that we as a nation might steer clear of any war and live continually in honor and peace (1 Timothy 2:13).

16. SIN UNTO DEATH

We believe, by the light of the Word of God, that there is a sin unto death and that if this sin is committed in the terms expressed in the Bible, the right to salvation is lost (Matthew 12:31-32; Romans 6:28; Hebrews 10:26-27; 1 John 5:16-17). Therefore, we recommend that the faithful abstain from giving ear to doctrines that promise eternal security to the Christian regardless of his conduct and the idea that "once saved, always saved." The Bible teaches that it is possible to be reprovved and that we must remain faithful unto the end (Romans 2:6-10; 1 Corinthians 9:26-27).

17. ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the system that the Bible teaches us to obtain the funds necessary to carry out the work of the Lord is that of tithes and offerings, and that this system must be practiced by ministers and believers alike. (Genesis 28:22; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38; Acts 11:27, 30; 1 Corinthians 9:3-14, 16:12; 2 Corinthians 8:1-16, 9:6-12, 11:7-9; 1 Timothy 5:17-18, 6:17-19; Galatians 6:6-10; Philippians 4:10-12, 15-19; Hebrews 13:16).

Knowing that the work of the Lord is not only spiritual but also of a material nature, we believe that it is necessary to regulate the acquisition and distribution of the necessary funds to meet the material needs of the work.

18. THE MINISTERIAL BODY

We believe that the ministry is a calling of God and that the Holy Spirit confers upon each minister the faculty of serving the church in distinct capacities and with distinct gifts, the manifestations of which are all for the edification of the Body of Christ (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:5-11; Ephesians 4:11-12).

We believe that the calling to the ministry is of divine origin and the Word of God contains sufficient teaching regarding the requirements that must be met by the person who is to serve in the ministry. Therefore, duly organized ecclesiastical governments are responsible for examining candidates for the ministry to determine whether these candidates should be approved and what tasks they shall be assigned (Acts 1:23-26, 6:13; 1 Timothy 3:1-10, 4:14, 5:22; Titus 1:5-9).

We also believe that the Holy Spirit uses the minister in various ways according to the needs of the work of the Lord and the capability and personal disposition of the ministers. No one can be placed in a higher position than that of which he is worthy (1 Timothy 3:13; Romans 12:3).

We believe that the bishopric is the highest office work in the ministry. Bishops shall therefore receive special respect and consideration, but without detriment to those who occupy lesser positions.