

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
PALATKA, FLORIDA**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the body or church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone: and

WHEREAS, the members of the body, the church of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves a body of Christian believers according to Scriptural plan for the local church and under the laws of the State of Florida, that we may worship God as a united body, exercising all other rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that we adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this assembly shall be First Assembly of God of the City of Palatka, State of Florida.

ARTICLE II PREROGATIVES

Section 1.

This Assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3, 13).

Section 2.

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, sue, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels

as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

This assembly recognizes itself to be in a voluntary cooperative fellowship associated with the Peninsular Florida District Council, with headquarters in Lakeland, Florida, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

This assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, which is as follows:

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- A. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- B. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- C. His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38).
- D. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- E. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 6:14, 15:4).
- F. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9-11, 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

- A. Conditions to Salvation:
Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).
- B. The Evidences of Salvation
The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

- A. Baptism in Water
The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4).
- B. Holy Communion
The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

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

8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

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

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord”

(Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

- A. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
- B. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- C. To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:12).

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

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

11. The Ministry

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

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20, 20:11-15, 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

The human phraseology employed in these Fundamental Truths are not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to the full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our present need as to these fundamental doctrines.

ARTICLE IV. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Water Baptism

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 3:14-15, 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

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

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith, including the ordinances, and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth.

Section 2. Voting Membership

All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are eighteen (18) years of age or over, that they regularly take part in the Lord's Supper and attend the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Section 3. Junior Membership

There shall be a nonvoting Junior Membership for young people of at least twelve (12) and under eighteen (18) years of age who give evidence of the New Birth, having received Christ as personal Savior, and who meet the usual qualifications for membership established by this assembly.

Section 4. Inactive Membership

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three (3) consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for

misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship. Their standing is to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through the Official Board.

Section 5. Honorary Members

Honorary members shall consist of those members, who have entered the ministry as district officers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, religious educators, or those serving in the Armed Services, which makes it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Pastors and their spouses serving the assembly will have voting privileges in all special and Annual Business Meetings as Honorary Members. Voting privilege may be granted to other Honorary Members at the discretion of the assembly.

Section 6. Associate Members

The Official Board shall be authorized to make provisions for associate (non-voting) members when such persons may have to be absent from their home assembly for prolonged periods of time such as attending college. During their period of involvement with First Assembly, the Constitution and By-Laws regarding their membership will apply.

Section 7. Absentee Voting in the selection of a Pastor

Provision is here-by made for the voting by absentee ballot in exceptional cases such as: working a shift during which the election is held, sudden illness, inability to drive at night, and the like, providing the absentee voter has attended at least one of the services at which the Senior Pastor candidate has delivered the message. The sealed absentee ballot along with the absentee voter's name shall be delivered to the Official Board Secretary or his designee(s) prior to the vote.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND OFFICIAL BOARD

Section 1. Officers

There shall be a Senior Pastor, who shall serve as president, and an Official Board. A Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from among the Official Board. Other officers shall be added as may be needed.

Section 2. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be an ordained Assembly of God minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God. He is responsible to both this assembly and

to the district fellowship. He shall be a person of high integrity whose life and conduct conform to the Scriptures. The Senior Pastor shall serve as the chairman of the Official Board and the president of the corporation.

Section 3. Official Board

The Official Board shall function under the leadership of the Senior Pastor and shall consist of not less than three Deacons and not less than three Trustees. Deacons and Trustees shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be chosen from the voting membership and who faithfully and consistently support the assembly with their attendance and finances (Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 16:10,17; Malachi 3:10, Acts 20:35; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:5), and who consistently exhibit the 'Fruit of the Spirit' Galatians 5:22-23). Members of the Official Board shall be at least 21 years old and shall have been voting members of this assembly for at least one (1) year.

The Official Board shall have general charge of the affairs, property and assets of the assembly. It shall be the duty of the Official Board to carry out the purposes and functions of the assembly and it shall act as the representatives of the assembly in legal, financial, and business matters.

Section 4. Deacons

Deacons (diakonos, in Greek meaning literally 'humble servant') shall assist the Senior Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the assembly, serve with him and under his supervision in the spiritual oversight of the assembly, and shall work with the Trustees. They shall meet the scriptural requirements of Acts 2:4, 6:3-4; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; and Titus 1.

Section 5. Trustees

The Trustees shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be chosen from the active membership of the assembly. The nominee shall be one who faithfully supports the local church with his attendance and finances, and who consistently exhibits the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Trustees shall work with the Deacons in conducting all church business.

Section 6. Church Administration

All matters of church administration shall be carried on by the Official Board except in matters affecting the entire body. In such matters they shall present their recommendations to the assembly for ratification.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Public Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Sunday and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Official Board.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of Deacon(s) and Trustee(s) shall take place, the report of all officers shall be received, a financial review will be made, and other business that may properly come before the body shall be considered. This meeting shall be held during the month of January of each year. The time and place shall be announced by the Senior Pastor. Notice shall be given on the two (2) consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Senior Pastor or by the Secretary of the assembly, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Official Board. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the voting membership of the assembly. The petition is to be placed in the hands of the Senior Pastor or the Secretary and announcement is to be made on the two (2) consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the date of the meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the assembly should request the assistance of a district official. Not more than one petition pertaining to the same subject will be recognized in the same calendar year.

Section 4. Quorum

No record of any special or regular business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-fourth (1/4) or more voting members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Official Board Meetings

The Official Board, with the Senior Pastor, shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business for the assembly at a time and place to be announced by the Senior Pastor.

Section 6. Proxy Vote

Neither assembly members nor Official Board members are permitted to vote by proxy.

ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Sunday school

There shall be a Sunday School created and conducted as a branch of the church activities.

Section 2. Youth, Children and Music Departments

There shall be a Youth Department, Children's Department, and a Music Department created under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and Official Board, which shall be conducted as branches of the church activities. Their policies shall be approved by the Senior Pastor and the Official Board.

Section 3. Other Departments

As need arises, other departments or committees may be established or dissolved at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and the Official Board.

Section 4. Relationship

All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Official Board and the Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly and the perpetuation of the departments and ministries shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, offerings, and gifts of the members and friends of the organization, or by any other means or sources consistent with the principles and moral standards of the Church, in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. All funds shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Senior Pastor and Official Board and shall be administered by the Treasurer through the church's accounting system under their direction (Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8). All funds shall be deposited in a responsible financial institution and records kept of all receipts and disbursements.

ARTICLE X. PROPERTY

Section 1.

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or if the church is not incorporated, by trustees and their successors in office. No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by accounted vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Senior Pastor and the Secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 2.

In the event defection or alienation shall occur from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly as stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or from the affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the aforesaid Tenets of Faith and retaining membership with First Assembly of God of Palatka, FL, shall retain possession of, and title to, all properties of said assembly with full rights thereto as provided in its Constitution and By-Laws. Determination of defection or alienation shall be made by the District Council, who will serve as the binding arbitrator.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two (2) consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Article of Faith, which stands regardless of majority.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Section 1. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the President of the Corporation and shall act as Chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the Official Board. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or

departments. He shall, with the Official Board, provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

The Senior Pastor shall appoint and/or dismiss, with the advice of the Official Board, all associate/assistant pastors and department heads, all other assembly employees shall be employed and/or dismissed by him. All such employees and pastoral staff members shall answer to him in the discharge of their duties. He shall have the authority to delegate his duties, direct their activities, and ultimately be responsible for their performance.

He may serve as signatory on checks and documents.

Section 2. Official Board

The Official Board is chosen to serve the church, and therefore shall counsel with and advise the Senior Pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life, evangelism, benevolence and other ministries of the assembly, and in the ministry of the ordinances. It shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of discipline of members.

The Official Board serves as the official, legal servants in matters of the business of the assembly. It shall serve as the custodians of the assembly's property, including its proper maintenance, insurance, and the like.

The Official Board shall meet at least monthly for the transaction of the business of the assembly. A majority present at any meeting of the Board shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a Senior Pastor, or the Senior Pastor is unable to be present, the Official Board shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business for the assembly.

The Official Board members shall make every effort to act in unanimity with fasting and prayer. Official Board members shall be assigned, at the discretion of the Senior Pastor, individual responsibilities that support the ministries of the assembly. Official Board members shall assist the Senior Pastor to fulfill the vision and goals God has given him for this assembly. They shall promote goodwill in the assembly and shall strengthen the people's confidence in the pastors and their leadership. They shall attend consistently, all regularly scheduled service of the assembly.

Should difficulties between the Senior Pastor and the Official Board members arise that appear to be unresolvable, counsel may be sought from the District Council. That shall occur only after the lay members of the Official Board, at a regular or duly called special Official Board meeting, have by a majority vote agreed to seek council. No individual shall ever take steps, concerning difficulties of this nature, outside of the provisions of these By-Laws.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He shall keep a record of membership of the assembly and perform, or cause to be performed, any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be responsible for the preservation of all legal documents, and be custodian of the corporate seal. He may serve as a legal representative of the corporation and a signatory on checks and documents. He shall be elected annually by a majority vote from the membership of the Official Board.

Section 4. Treasurer

The accounts shall be audited annually under the direction of the Senior Pastor and Official Board. The Treasurer may serve as a legal representative of the corporation and a signatory on checks and documents. He shall be elected annually by a majority vote from the membership of the Official Board. He may delegate any of his responsibilities, with the approval of the Official Board, to any responsible parties within the administration.

ARTICLE II. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor may be elected to serve for one or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election. A pastoral search committee of seven (7) active members of the assembly shall be appointed by the Official Board with at least three members from the then current Official Board. Recommendations of pastoral candidates may be made by any active member to the search committee. The search committee shall recommend one candidate to the Official Board. The candidate recommended by the search committee shall be nominated by the Official Board. The Official Board shall refrain from the practice of presenting more than one minister to the assembly before taking a vote, but after hearing a qualified prospective pastor, a yes or no vote shall be required from the active membership of the assembly. Only one candidate shall be voted upon by the assembly at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

Section 2. Secretary and Treasurer

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen annually by the Official Board from the membership of the Official Board. The election shall be held during the first Official Board meeting following the annual business meeting. The term of office

shall be for one (1) year from the time of election and they may succeed themselves. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same individual.

Section 3. Official Board

Deacons and Trustees shall be chosen from the active membership of the assembly. They shall be men of mature character and good reputation, being honest in financial matters, pure in doctrine, maintaining a testimony of Christian maturity and exhibiting an example of leadership as evidenced in the home, ruling their houses well. Nominations to these respective offices may come from the assembly and must be submitted to the Official Board on signed official nomination forms. Nominations will be accepted for a three (3) week period and will close no less than three (3) weeks prior to the Annual business meeting. The Official Board shall constitute the nominating committee and will determine qualified individuals by questionnaire, interview, or other means. All qualified nominees shall be announced at least one (1) week prior to the meeting where such elections are to be considered. No nominations shall be submitted from the floor.

They shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for three (3) years from the time of election and they shall not be able to succeed themselves in this office until after a period of one (1) year. However, if serving less than two (2) years of an unexpired term they shall be able to succeed themselves.

After the Deacon election, the remaining non-elected nominees shall become eligible for election as a trustee. A nominee does not have to be present at the business meeting in order to be elected.

Section 4. Senior Pastor – Vacancy

If the Senior Pastor is elected for a definite period of time, upon the completion of his term, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active membership at the annual meeting or a duly called special business meeting shall be necessary for him to continue in that office. In the event that the Senior Pastor is not reelected, he shall be given up to sixty (60) days to relocate. In the event a Senior Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of this ministry, power and responsibility is vested in a majority vote of the members of the Official Board to ask for the resignation of the Senior Pastor at any of its regular business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Official Board has been confirmed by a majority vote of the assembly at a meeting called for that purpose. This meeting is to be presided over by a district official. When a vacancy in the Senior pastorate shall occur, a supply pastor shall be arranged for by the Official Board until a Senior Pastor shall be chosen. In the case of a Senior Pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the District Council office.

In the event a pastor resigns or he is removed from office, at least 30 days notice shall be given by the party initiating the change unless other arrangements can be made by mutual agreement of both parties.

If a Senior Pastor's credentials are withheld or withdrawn by the District or the General Council, his term of office as Senior Pastor shall be automatically terminated and his membership in this assembly withdrawn.

Section 5. Other Officers-Vacancy

Any office may be declared vacant by resignation, death or an act of a majority of the membership of the Official Board at any regular or special meeting.

Grounds for such action shall be:

- (1) Unscriptural conduct
- (2) Departure from the Tenets of Faith
- (3) Incompetence in office
- (4) Or for any good and sufficient cause

Notice of removal shall be given in writing. Removal from office shall not necessarily affect his membership status.

Any person removed from office may appeal his case to the voting membership of the assembly. The request for an appeal shall be made in writing to the Official Board within 14 days of his removal. The Official Board shall set the appeal meeting to be held within 30 days of receiving the appeal.

In the event a vacancy shall occur in offices other than the Senior Pastor, the Official Board shall be empowered to choose a replacement who shall serve until the next annual business meeting.

Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Standards of Membership

The Standards of Membership of this assembly shall be:

- (a.) Evidence of a genuine Christian conversion (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).
- (b.) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4, 8:1-4, 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:17-32, 5:1-21; 1 John 1:6-7).
- (c.) To have received or be earnestly seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).
- (d.) To be baptized by immersion (Matthew 28:19-20)
- (e.) To fully subscribe to all the Tenets of Faith, including the ordinances, as set forth in Article IV of the Constitution of First Assembly of God
- (f.) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of First Assembly of God and its ministries through financial offerings, gifts, abilities, and time (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

- (g.) Showing evidence of a cooperative, submissive, humble and Christ-like spirit as the Scriptures enjoin.
- (h.) Agreeing to be governed by the rules of the assembly.
- (i.) Satisfactory completion of the “New Members Class.”
- (j.) To be active in at least one ministry within the assembly.

Members should develop the practice of daily prayer, Bible study, personal witnessing, and faithful attendance at worship and observance of the sacraments. The applicant should refrain from worldliness such as (1) participating in activity which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit; (2) having an inordinate love of, or preoccupation with, pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse; (3) manifesting extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; and (4) having a fascinating or association which lessens one’s affection for spiritual things (Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20; Galatians 5:19-21).

Each member shall agree to the following covenant:

“It is my earnest prayer that God shall keep me true to Him, but if for any reason I shall depart from the faith, or cease to live a godly life, or change my doctrinal beliefs, I shall consider it just, to be automatically released from membership in the church.”

Section 2. Reception of Members

Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known by written application to the Senior Pastor, who shall examine the applicant(s) according to the Standards of Membership.

The Senior Pastor shall present the name(s) of those who apply for membership with his recommendation(s) to the Official Board who, in council with the Senior Pastor shall act upon said recommendation(s) and render a final decision. All persons who have met the Standards of Membership and have been passed on favorably by the Official Board shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular Sunday services and their names recorded on the roster.

Section 3. Transfers

Any person having been a member of another church affiliated with the Assemblies of God, who shall desire to be affiliated with this assembly, shall file with the Official Board a letter of transfer from the former church. Such person shall still be required to complete the “New Members” class offered by this assembly and shall meet the Standards of Membership.

A voting member in good standing who desires to transfer his membership to another congregation may apply to the Official Board for a Letter of Transfer. The Letter of Transfer shall be signed by the Senior Pastor.

Section 4. Qualifications for Voting

The voting constituency at all business meetings shall consist of those persons who have been members of the Assembly for at least three (3) months prior to the business meeting, who have not been placed on probation, who have not been removed from active membership, and who have not been terminated.

Section 5. Discipline

A). Probation

Should a member of this Assembly fall below the Standards of Membership in faith or in practice, or should his spirit be contentious and discordant to the well-being of church life, then at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and the Official Board his membership may be placed on probation without voting privileges for a specific or an indefinite period of time.

The disciplined member shall be notified, in writing, of the terms of this probation. Within thirty (30) days of his receipt of such notification, the disciplined member may file a written protest with the Official Board.

The filing of a written protest shall entitle the disciplined member to a hearing before the Official Board, after which the Official Board shall render a final decision in the case.

B.) Continuing Absence

The Board shall have the right to remove from active membership any member who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services of the church for a period of three (3) months except for physical disability.

C.) Membership in Secret Orders, Societies, or Fraternal Affiliations.

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:26). It is well known that the various secret orders and societies require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant from the Lord's work (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachments to binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerate (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders and societies aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8). Confidence in these secret orders and their

teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In consideration of the foregoing, the Official Board shall have the right to remove from active membership or deny active membership to any person who identifies himself with, or is a member of any of the secret orders or fraternal affiliations which we recognize as essentially of the world, and worldly (2Corinthians 6:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

D). Termination and Denial of Membership

If a member shall fall below the Standards of Membership in faith and practice, should his spirit be contentious and discordant to the well-being of church life, or he engages in unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenants of Faith held by this assembly (Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8-9; Titus 3:1-15), these shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and the Official Board. Any judgment shall be presented personally.

An individual membership shall not be terminated unless effort has been made to win such individual back to the Standards of Membership. Any member who has been disciplined or denied membership for any reason has the right to appeal within thirty (30) days after receipt of notification. Appeal is to be made to the Official Board. If appeal to the Official Board for reconsideration and reinstatement is denied, then the dismissed member may appeal for a special business meeting of the assembly to consider the issue. The action, by a majority vote, shall be considered final (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15).

A member may terminate his membership by informing the Official Board, in writing, of his desire to do so. Such termination requires no action by the Official Board.

Section 6. Revision of the Roster

The Senior Pastor and the Official Board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll quarterly, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who have been disqualified as a member.

ARTICLE IV.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Section 1.

There shall be a Sunday School Superintendent. Other officers and teachers may be appointed as needed and desired.

Section 2.

The Official Board shall provide for the nomination of the Sunday School Superintendent. The nominee(s) shall be balloted upon at the annual business meeting. All nominees shall be people of mature Christian experience, active participants in church services and activities, and consistently exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Section 3.

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election. Election shall be by a majority of the votes cast in secret ballot.

Section 4.

There shall be an executive committee of the Sunday School consisting of the Senior Pastor, and/or pastoral staff appointed by him, Sunday School Superintendent, and a minimum of three (3) members appointed by the Official Board. The committee shall appoint all other officers, teachers and workers of the Sunday School and provide for a written operational policy to be approved by the Official Board.

ARTICLE V.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1.

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly, or if the assembly's not incorporated, by trustees and their successors in office.

Section 2.

No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership. When the purchase of a single item of chattel property is valued over five percent (5%) of the previous year's total income, the Official Board's recommendation must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at a regular or special meeting

called for this purpose. The Official Board is authorized to make repair and replacement expenditures as deemed necessary.

Section 3.

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

Section 4.

In the event that this assembly ceases to function as a church body, than the said property, real or chattel, after providing for the payment of its debts, shall revert to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Springfield, Missouri, and the Peninsular Florida District with headquarters in Lakeland, Florida. The General Council and the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by them, the proceeds derived shall be used for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

ARTICLE VI. BORROWING LIMITS

The Official Board shall have the power to borrow such sums as may be needed from time to time. Any transaction in excess of five percent (5%) of the previous year's income, shall be authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at a regular or special meeting called for this purpose.

ARTICLE VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the assembly shall include the following: a devotional, the presentation of the previous minutes by the Secretary, the presentation of the financial report, reports from the ministries of the assembly and any committees commissioned for special projects as needed, the election of officers, the presentation of business items, and adjournment.

So that proper, meaningful and orderly discussion may take place, recommendations for business items shall be submitted to the Senior Pastor or the Secretary no less than six (6) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting so that they may be included in the information made available to the membership. Agenda items should promote good and harmonious relationships within the assembly and further strengthen the purposes of God being fulfilled through the assembly.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present. Due notice of By-Law changes shall be made at all the services on at least two (2) consecutive Sunday's immediately prior to the business meeting at which these changes will be considered.

ARTICLE IX. INDEMNIFICATION

Each Officer or former Officer of this corporation and his legal representative shall be indemnified by this corporation against liabilities, expenses, counsel fees and costs in connection with or arising out of action, suit, proceeding or claim in which he is made a party by reason of an event that occurs at a time when he is serving as an officer of the corporation.

Constitution and By-Laws of First Assembly of God

Adopted this 24 th day of September,	1975
Amended this 29 th day of September,	1982
Amended this 14 th day June,	1987
Amended this 16 th day of December,	1992
Amended this 13 th day of January,	1993
Amended this 27 th day of January,	1999