

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
MINIMUM CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
INCLUSIONS FOR
HOME MISSIONS ASSEMBLIES

1. **PREAMBLE:**
A preamble that is in harmony with the General Council and district council preambles.

2. **DEFINITION:**
A home missions assembly is one that is developing, maturing and striving to meet the requirements for becoming a district affiliated assembly.

3. **NAME:**
Include the words Assembly of God or Assemblies of God unless it is already constituted under another name.

4. **AFFILIATION:**
Be affiliated with the Southern New England District of the Assemblies of God.

5. **TENETS OF FAITH:**
Be in harmony with the General Council.

6. **ORDINANCES:**
State the ordinances of Water Baptism and Communion.

7. **MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY:**
Include a statement of membership eligibility which is in harmony with the General Council.

8. **OFFICERS:**
Pastor, secretary/treasurer.

9. **BOARD:**
The official Board shall consist of the pastor, secretary/treasurer, executive director of church development, sectional presbyter and sectional missions representative.

10. **BUSINESS MEETINGS:**

There shall be an annual Business Meeting to hear reports of the officers and departmental leaders.

11. **FINANCES:**

Funds for maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by tithes and offerings. In the event this assembly ceases to function as an Assemblies of God church body that is affiliated with the Southern New England District, all finances shall become the property of the Southern New England District. The Southern New England District Presbytery shall have full authority to use or dispose of these finances at its discretion.

12. **PROPERTY:**

All property shall be held in the name of the church. In the event this assembly ceases to function as an Assemblies of God church body, affiliated with the Southern New England District, all property shall revert to the Southern New England District, the said District Presbytery shall have full authority to use or dispose of these properties at its discretion.

13. **AMENDMENTS:**

These minimum inclusions may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the district Missions Committee and the District Presbytery.

14. **QUALIFICATIONS OF PASTOR:**

The pastor must be a credentialed minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God.

15. **DUTIES OF PASTOR:**

1. Shall be overseer of the assembly and direct all activities.
2. Chairman of all business meetings and Board Meetings.
3. He shall send a monthly report of programs, finances and activities to the members of the church's official Board and to the district office.
4. He shall evaluate persons for membership.
5. In the absence of the pastor, the district superintendent shall make provision for ministry to the assembly.

16. **VACANCIES:**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the pastor, the district superintendent shall appoint a successor, in cooperation with and in consideration of the local congregation.

17. DEPARTMENTAL LEADERS:

The pastor shall appoint all departmental leaders.

18. SALARIES:

The official Board shall determine all salaries.

19. DISTRICT SUPPORT:

It is requested that 1% of the general income be sent to the district office quarterly or monthly.

**SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.
MODEL CONSTITUTION
FOR
HOME MISSIONS ASSEMBLIES
ADOPTED _____**

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for the Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in Foreign lands; we hereby recognize ourselves as a Home Missions Assembly affiliated with the Southern New England District of the Assemblies of God, Inc.

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Definition

A Home Missions Assembly is one that is developing, maturing and striving to meet the requirements for becoming a District Affiliated Assembly.

Article II. Name

The name of this assembly shall be Assembly of God.

Article III. Affiliation

This assembly shall be affiliated with the Southern New England District as a Home Missions Assembly and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by this affiliation.

Article IV. Tenets of Faith

This assembly shall accept 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 approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Article V. Ordinances

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

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

Article VI. Membership

Section 1. The corporation shall have two classes of member, to wit: Constitutional Members and Congregation Members. Constitutional Members shall consist solely of the Pastor, Secretary-Treasurer, the District Director of Church Development, the Sectional Presbyter and the Sectional Missions Representative of the Southern New England District of the Assemblies of God. Congregational Members are those who are elected as such pursuant to the by-laws. Only Constitutional Members shall have the power to vote. Congregational Members shall not have the power to vote.

Section 2. Congregational Membership Eligibility: Membership in this assembly shall be open to all who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth.

Article VII. Officers

The officers of this church shall be the Pastor and the Secretary-Treasurer. The pastor shall serve as the President and the Secretary-Treasurer as the clerk of the corporation. The Official Board of this church shall consist of these officers along with the Executive Director of Church Development, the Sectional Presbyter and the Sectional Missions Representative.

Article VIII. Meetings

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

Section 2. There shall be an annual meeting of the official board of the church. The purpose of this meeting is to review the past year, approve plans for the coming year, receive the treasurer's report, approve the church budget for the next year, election of officers and act on other matters of concern.

Section 3. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the reports of the officers and departmental leaders shall be presented. This meeting shall be held on the second Monday in February of each year. The time and place shall be announced by the pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 4. The Official Board shall meet as necessary for the transaction of the business of the assembly, all members are to be notified of all meetings. Quorum: No record of any meeting of the Official Board shall be made unless a sectional or district officer is present.

Article IX. Committees and Departments

Section 1. All Departments, Ministries and Committees: shall be established by the Pastor as the need arises.

Section 2. All Departments, Ministries and Committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and the board, and the pastor shall be an **ex officio** member of all committees or departments.

Article X. Finances

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the pastor and board, and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8). In the event this assembly ceases to function as an Assemblies of God church body that is affiliated with the Southern New England District, all finances shall become the property of the Southern New England District. The Southern New England District Presbytery shall have full authority to use or dispose of these finances at its discretion.

Article XI. Property

All property shall be held in the name of the church. In the event that this assembly ceases to function as a church body affiliated with the Southern New England District, all property shall revert to the Southern New England District, the said District Presbytery shall have full authority to use or dispose of these properties at its discretion.

Article XII. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended only by action of the Official Board. No change shall be made which shall violate the minimum inclusions for this type of church as set forth by the District Council.

Article XIII. Qualifications of Pastor

The pastor must be a credentialed minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God

BYLAWS
FOR
HOME MISSIONS ASSEMBLIES

Article I. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall act as chairman of all business meetings of the assembly. He shall be an **ex officio** member of all committees or departments. He shall appoint all departmental leaders. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval. He shall send a monthly report of the activities and progress of the assembly to the District Office. He shall evaluate the applications for membership according to the standards set forth in these Bylaws. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, or the pastor is unable to be present, the District Superintendent shall make provision for ministry to the assembly and shall be empowered to provide the necessary leadership for the transaction of business.

Section 2. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. The Secretary shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all important documents, and if the assembly is incorporated, the corporate seal.

Section 3. The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly which may be committed to him. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the assembly and shall disburse the same by check as authorized by the pastor. The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall present an itemized report to the assembly at its annual meeting. The Treasurer's accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Official Board.

Article II. Appointments and Vacancies

Section 1. The pastor must be a credentialed minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God. The pastor shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in cooperation with and in consideration of the local congregation.

Section 2. The secretary-treasurer shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly by the pastor and Official Board. The term of their office shall be for 1 year.

Section 3. Vacancies:

- a. The pastor. In the event of a resignation the, District Superintendent shall be notified at least thirty days in advance. In the event the pastor has serious charges preferred against him, or his ministry has ceased to be

effective, the District Superintendent, in cooperation with the District Presbytery, may request his resignation. If the request for the pastor's resignation is refused, the District Superintendent shall have the right to declare the pastorate vacant. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for by the District Superintendent.

- b. Other officers:
 1. Any office may be declared vacant by an act of the Official Board. In the event that an office is vacated, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Official Board.
 2. Grounds for such action shall be: Unscriptural conduct, departure from the tenets of faith, incompetence in office, or for any good and sufficient cause.
 3. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a hearing of his case before the Official Board if requested.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. The Standard of Congregational Membership:

1. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth)-John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25
2. Evidence of a consistent Christian life-Rom. 6:4; 13:13-14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1,2,1; 1 John 1:6-7
3. To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in Article IV of the Constitution
4. To contribute regularly a tithe of their income to the support of the assembly.

Section 2. Reception of Members:

- a. Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership.
- b. The pastor shall present the names of those who apply for congregational membership with his recommendation to the Official Board who will render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been approved shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular Sunday services and their names inscribed on the roster.

Section 3. Discipline:

Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15.

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

Section 5. The pastor and the other officers of the church shall be authorized to revise the congregational membership roll of the assembly annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly. The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require. Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17,18; I Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Thess. 3:6-15. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action through the secretary. If appeal is made for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the Official Board.

Article IV. Finances

Section 1. The Official Board shall determine all salaries and shall have general oversight in all financial matters of the assembly. A monthly report shall be sent to the District Office.

Section 2. It is requested that one percent of the general income of this assembly be sent to the District Office on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Article V. Order of Business

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

1. Devotional.
2. Reading of previous minutes by secretary.
3. Report of treasurer.
4. Report of committee.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Adjournment.

Article VI. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended only by action of the Official Board. No change shall be made which shall violate the minimum inclusions for this type of church as set forth by the District Council.