

BYLAWS

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND MINISTRY NETWORK OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

(UPDATED JUNE 2019)

ARTICLE I. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). Recognition of candidates for the ministry in the fellowship of the district shall be granted to all those who give evidence of having received a call for service and who have been filled with the Holy Spirit according to (Acts 2:4). In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized; the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- A. **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth, (John 3:5).
- B. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to (Acts 2:4). The Spirit-filled life will enable one to fulfill the threefold mission of the church; Network Constitution, Article IV, Section 10.
- C. **Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry evidenced by a personal conviction and confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- D. **Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- E. **Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and full agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- F. **Assemblies of God polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the fellowship through a study of the General Council and Network Constitution and Bylaws.
- G. **Commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.

- H. **Basic educational requirements.** Any level of formal academic achievement diploma or degree shall never be a requirement for credentials but it shall be required of applicants that they complete the prescribed study courses of the Berean University of the Assemblies of God or equivalent training in an approved school and pass examinations together with other training as may be prescribed by the Network Credentials Committee in conformity with such provisions as are made for applicants by the Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- I. **Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former companion living except as hereinafter provided.
- J. **Annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution, whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.
- K. **Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women, who have met all the requirements of the Network Credentials Committee, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry and/or Network leadership.
- L. **Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the Network Credentials Committee is under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:
1. Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
 2. Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
 3. Submit a recommendation for ministerial recognition.
 4. Submit a recommendation from the body with which the individual was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry.
 5. Take the credential examination.
 6. Meet with the Network Credentials Committee.
 7. Be recommended by the Network Credentials Committee for the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.

8. All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands of the Network Presbytery.
9. Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization.

Section 3. Graded Qualifications

- A. **Certified minister:** Efficient helpers in gospel work, who devote a part of their time to Christian service and whenever possible remain under the supervision of a pastor, may be recognized as certified ministers. They shall preach at least 12 times a year or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry except in case of ill health or infirmity.
- B. **License.** Qualifications for license shall be in two categories:
 1. Preaching ministry. Clear evidence of a divine call and a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel. They shall preach at least 15 times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity.
 2. Specialized ministry. An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, church-related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full-time ministries. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this article shall apply.
- C. **Ordination.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9).

In addition:

 1. Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
 2. They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
 3. No person may be ordained to the ministry until the individual shall have held a license to preach and shall have been engaged in active work as a pastor, evangelist, or some other recognized and proven full-time preaching ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
 4. Residence requirements of applicants. Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the Southern New England Ministry Network and appear before the credentials committee. This Network will refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another Network/District, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of this Network for at least one year. If the applicant has not been a member of this Network for 2 full consecutive years, the individual must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the Network/District in which he/she was previously licensed, as well as this Network.
 5. Exceptions to residency requirements. In the event that an applicant has qualified and been approved for ordination by the Network/District of the individual's former residence before being

publicly ordained, this Network may waive the one-year residency requirement and ordain the individual upon the request or approval of the individual's former Network/District.

6. In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers must preach at least 15 times a year.
7. All ordinations shall take place at the Annual Network Council. Exceptions may be granted by the Network Credentials Committee when special conditions warrant.

Section 4. Procedures

- A. Applications for ministerial recognition should be obtained from the secretary. They should be properly filled out and returned to the secretary prior to the meeting of the Credentials Committee before which the candidate purposes to appear.
- B. All candidates shall obtain proper recommendations from pastors or other responsible ministers.
- C. All candidates should be prepared to take the approved examination appropriate to the level of credential under consideration.
- D. They must appear in person before the Network Credentials Committee or Sectional Credentials Committee at one of its regular meetings.
- E. The determination as to whether an applicant qualifies for a credential is at the discretion of the Network Credentials Committee following the interview.
- F. Certified, licensed, and ordained minister certificates shall be issued by the General Council, all of which are Renewal of Credentials.

Section 5. Ministerial Relations

- A. All credential holders moving into the Southern New England Ministry Network shall be affiliated with this Network other than those excepted by Article VII of the Network Constitution. They shall request transfer from their former Network/District.
- B. When ministers take up residence in another Network/District, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within 60 days by this Network unless there are definite charges pending against them.

Section 6. Ministerial Unity and Practical Cooperation

- A. Inasmuch as a Commission on Doctrinal Purity has been established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings, this Network disapproves of those doctrines and practices listed in Article IX of the General Council Bylaws.
- B. It is recommended:
 1. That assemblies locate a sufficient distance from each other so as to facilitate cooperation.
 2. That all credential holders consult with the Network officials and our local pastors before engaging in ministry in any church not affiliated

- with the Assemblies of God. If not approved by the local pastor or pastors, they shall be expected to refrain from such ministry.
3. All credential holders shall confer with the superintendent regarding their work, service and change of pastorates, etc., and the opening of new fields remembering to preserve ministerial courtesies already adopted.
 4. That pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding persons who seek to gain entrance to teach or minister. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. Since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the fellowship, it is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers. Pastors and Network officials should maintain a reciprocal exchange of information relative to unknown persons seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 7. Discipline of Credential Holders

This Network shall avail itself of the prerogatives conferred upon it in the matter of discipline as defined in Article X of the General Council Bylaws. In addition, the rights and privileges granted to the ordained minister shall be extended to include all credential holders to the extent amenable to the General Council.

ARTICLE II. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Organization of Assemblies

Groups of Spirit-filled Christians which have been brought into being as a result of evangelistic efforts and which are still in a formative state or organized churches which are still developing and maturing who are interested in affiliation with the Assemblies of God shall be encouraged to seek the help and counsel of the officary to become affiliated with the Network. At the appropriate time, arrangements to set the assembly in order shall be made with the director of church development. At this meeting, a declaration of reaffirmation of affiliation with the Assemblies of God shall be made, officers shall be elected or provided for the future guidance of the church. Such assemblies shall be given a Certificate of Affiliation in one of two classifications, home missions or Network affiliated.

Section 2. Network Council Affiliated Assemblies

A Network council affiliated assembly is a congregation which has not reached sufficient maturity to attain the status of General Council affiliation.

A. Daughter Church

A daughter church is one that is mothered by a mothering church who wishes to continue supervision when the daughter church affiliates with the Network.

1. Requirements

- a. The official board of the daughter church will consist of the

mothering church's official board and the sectional presbyter or his designee, in which the daughter church resides.

- b. The official board of the daughter church will meet at least quarterly and the daughter church's senior pastor will act as chairman of this board.
- c. As adequate leadership is developed from within the daughter church, it is expected that the official board of the daughter church will encourage it to seek affiliation as a Network affiliated assembly.
- d. Monthly reports concerning the daughter church's growth and development will be sent to the sectional presbyter and the director of church development.

2. Relationship

They shall be under the general supervision of the mothering church.

B. Home Missions

A home missions assembly is one that is developing, maturing and striving to meet the requirements for becoming a Network affiliated assembly.

1. Requirements

- a. They shall be governed by the Network approved Constitution and Bylaws for Home Missions Assemblies, which includes the "Minimum Constitution and Bylaws Inclusions".
- b. They shall be pastored by a credentialed Assemblies of God minister or by a pastor who is in the process of becoming a credentialed Assemblies of God minister.
- c. They shall fulfill the Network requirements for liability insurance.
- d. They shall establish an acceptable minute keeping system and follow proper church financial procedures.
- e. They shall commit to giving one percent of the church's general income to the Network.
- f. They shall commit to fulfill all the necessary governmental requirements for an Employer ID Number, State Sales Tax Exempt Number, Incorporation, etc.

2. Relationship

They shall be under the general supervision of the Missions Committee and the director of church development.

C. Network Affiliated Assemblies

A Network affiliated assembly is one that is still developing, maturing and striving to meet the requirements for becoming a General Council assembly or one for which the Network holds a financial liability.

1. Requirements

- a. They shall adopt and maintain a constitution and bylaws that includes the "Minimum Constitution and Bylaws Inclusions for a Network affiliated assembly".

- b. They shall be pastored by a credentialed Assemblies of God minister who is in good standing.
- c. They shall fulfill the Network's requirements for liability insurance.
- d. They shall have a pastor who is willing to give full time to the ministry and must receive a reasonable remuneration.
- e. They shall regularly contribute one percent of the church's general income to the Network.
- f. They shall regularly meet their financial commitments.

2. Relationship

They shall be under the supervision of the Network superintendent and the Network Presbytery.

D. Satellite or Dependent Church

A satellite or dependent church is a congregation that is sponsored by an affiliated governing church and which is not intended to be released as an autonomous church but is intended to remain as a satellite or dependent church.

1. Requirements

- a. The Official Board of the satellite church will consist of the Board of the governing church.
- b. The satellite church shall be pastored by a credentialed Assemblies of God minister who is in good standing.

2. Relationship

They shall be under the general supervision of the governing church.

3. Recognition

A general council assembly when opening a satellite or dependent church shall inform the Network leadership that the satellite or dependent church is opening and the church shall be listed on the Network Council and General Council records as a Network affiliated church.

- E. The Network Missions Committee and the Network Presbytery are authorized to establish the requirements for each classification as well as the "Minimum Constitution and Bylaws Inclusions" for home missions and Network affiliated assemblies.
- F. The Network Presbytery has the right to make the final determination as to the classification of all churches that are affiliated with the Network as well as any General Council church that loses its affiliation with the General Council.

Section 3. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A. Application

Local assemblies, which have matured sufficiently to accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order and have at least 20 members, shall be entitled to make application for recognition as a General Council affiliated assembly.

B. Requirements

1. They shall accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
2. They shall have a membership standard which shall be determined by agreement with the Network.
3. They shall have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body.
4. They shall adopt a constitution and bylaws compatible with those recommended by the Network council.
5. They shall have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution and bylaws.
6. They shall make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and the Network.
7. They shall hold all their properties and mortgages in the church's name.

C. Relationship

The Network recognizes the sovereignty of the local church in accordance with Article XI of the General Council Constitution.

D. Privileges

1. It shall be the privilege of all assemblies to have the advice and help of the Network Presbytery in all vital matters that affect them. Other benefits may be made possible through the Network Presbytery.
2. In the event of pastoral change, it is recommended that these assemblies seek the advice and assistance of the superintendent to safeguard both pastors and assemblies.

Section 4. Duties

It shall be the duty of all assemblies to maintain scriptural order in doctrine and conduct. Assemblies shall be expected to have a part in the World Ministries program of the General Council. Should difficulties arise within an assembly which might threaten its peace and welfare, it shall be the duty of the assembly to seek the help and advice of the Network superintendent, looking toward an amicable settlement.

ARTICLE III. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at the Annual Network Council meetings shall consist of the members present as defined in Article VII, Section 1 of the Network Constitution, along with the delegates from the assemblies defined in Article VII, Section 2 who are registered by the Roster Committee. In this respect, each Assembly having 100 voting members or less is entitled to one certified delegate and assemblies having more than 100 voting members are entitled to two certified delegates.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

A. Nominations for the Network Superintendent

All nominees for Network Superintendent must receive at least five nominations from ordained ministers within the Southern New England Ministry Network. These nominations are to be accomplished through a postal or electronic ballot postmarked on or after March 1 and no later than March 31. Nominees who receive at least five nominations will be vetted by the Presbytery. The vetting process will assess the nominee's qualifications according to the bylaws and their willingness to serve. Vetted and willing nominees will have their names presented at the Annual Network Conference.

B. Nominations for other Network officers shall be by secret ballot. All withdrawals shall be made prior to the first elective ballot.

C. Nominees shall be balloted upon until one candidate shall have received two-thirds of all votes cast. If an election is not declared on the third elective ballot, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the third elective ballot shall be the only nominees to be voted on until an election is declared.

Section 3. Nominees for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter

The Annual Network Council shall nominate two ministers from its Network, one of whom is not an elected, full-time official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from this area to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. See General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2.e.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Qualifications

The Network Presbytery as defined in Article VIII, Section 2 of the Network Constitution shall act as the officers of the corporation, and shall be ordained ministers of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, proven accountability and Christian character. (I Timothy 3:6-7; Deuteronomy 34:9; Acts 6:3; Daniel 1:3, 11; I Peter 4:11; Philippians 2:15; Acts 24:16) They shall be

chosen from the membership having ministered as a senior pastor within the Network for at least two years.

Section 2. Duties and Terms of Office

A. Superintendent

1. Term of office

The superintendent shall be elected for a term of four years, such term to begin 60 days after election. The superintendent shall be elected as a full time, resident officer.

2. Duties

The duties of the Superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Annual Network Council, the Executive Presbytery, the Network Presbytery, and the credentials committees.
- b. Be the president of the corporation.
- c. Perform all the usual and customary tasks of a presiding officer.
- d. Administer discipline.
- e. Supervise all activities and work of the Network and shall approve all speakers for Network events.
- f. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- g. Appoint, subject to the approval of the Network Presbytery, the various committees of the Annual Network Council sessions.
- h. Appoint all home missions pastors.
- i. Approve the sites for all new church plants with the ratification of the Network Presbytery.
- j. Function as a general presbyter in accordance with the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3.

B. Assistant Superintendent

1. Term of office

The assistant superintendent shall be elected for a term of four years concurrent with the term of the superintendent, such term to begin at the time of election.

2. Duties

The duties of the Assistant Superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Be the vice-president of the corporation.
- b. Preside at meetings in the absence of the superintendent.
- c. Carry out any instructions of the Network superintendent, the Network Presbytery and the Annual Network Council.
- d. Serve as a general presbyter in accordance with General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3.

C. Executive Director of Minister Development

1. Term of office

The Executive Director of Minister Development shall be elected for a term of four years, such term to begin 60 days after election. The Executive Director of Minister Development shall be elected as a full time, resident officer.

2. Duties

The duties of the Executive Director of Minister Development shall include the following:

- a. Develop meaningful ministry groups that will enhance relationships between ministers with other ministers and their families within the Southern New England Ministry Network.
- b. Serve to develop the entire minister spiritually, personally, and professionally.
- c. Ensure the making and keeping true records of the proceedings of the Network, serving as the corporation's Secretary-Treasurer.
- d. Be custodian of the official seal of the Network; to issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee, and to keep a record of all credential holders and assemblies in the Network.
- e. Act as secretary of the meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Network Presbytery and the credentials committees.
- f. Execute and deliver on behalf of the corporation and under its corporate seal, all written instruments and other documents as are necessary or may be directed by the Annual Network Council or the Network Presbytery. If for any reason the secretary is absent from the Network or unable to execute and deliver instruments or documents on behalf of the corporation as above prescribed, the superintendent shall act in his or her place, and the certification of the superintendent of such inability or absence of the secretary shall be conclusive evidence of such fact.
- g. Revise, edit and publish the Annual Network Council minutes annually in cooperation with the superintendent, and distribute a copy to each credential holder.
- h. Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, conducting the work of the office according to accepted business methods.
- i. Be the custodian of the Network funds, depositing necessary operational funds in a responsible bank in the name of the Network and to invest reserves in a manner approved by the Annual Network Council or the Network Presbytery.
- j. Give a report of the finances from time to time as may be requested by the Network Presbytery.
- k. Issue a complete, itemized, annual financial report at the Annual Network Council of all income and expenses of the Network.
- l. The Treasurer shall have the records audited once every three

years by a certified public accountant and direct a financial review on the years an audit is not called for.

- m. Serve as a general presbyter.
- n. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- o. Perform such other functions as are customary to the office or as may be directed by the superintendent, the Network Presbytery and the Annual Network Council.

D. Executive Director of Church Development

1. Term of office

The executive director of church development shall be elected for a term of four years, such term to begin 60 days after election. The executive director of church development shall be elected as a full time, resident officer.

2. Duties

The duties of the Director of Church Development shall include the following:

- a. Serve as a member of the Executive Presbytery and Network Presbytery.
- b. Be the director of home and foreign missions.
- c. Serve the ministers who pastor home missions assemblies with advice, care, counsel and direction.
- d. Serve on all home missions assemblies' church boards and give assistance in implementing necessary changes, as required toward growth and stability.
- e. Serve as an ex-officio member of all Network affiliated assemblies church boards.
- f. Serve as a resource for all general council assemblies.
- g. Target areas of opportunity for the planting of new churches.
- h. Assist missionaries in planning Network itineraries and meetings and encourage specific monthly pledges for home and foreign missionaries and missions projects.
- i. Encourage and counsel with missionary candidates and appointees.
- j. Carry out any instructions of the Network superintendent, the Network Presbytery and the Annual Network Council.

E. Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery shall act between sessions of the Network Presbytery in an advisory capacity to the superintendent and shall have the right to make any necessary decisions between meetings of the Network Presbytery excluding the acquisition and disposal of local church real property and the disbursement of funds above a limit set and reviewed periodically by the Network Presbytery. Executive Presbytery

actions are to be reported to the Network Presbytery at their next regular meeting.

F. Network Presbytery

1. The Network Presbytery shall have the general oversight of the activities of the Network between Annual Network Council sessions and shall be authorized to act for the Network in all matters that affect its interest and to execute its decisions. It shall arrange for its own meetings, and its decisions shall be final and binding on the Network. A two-thirds majority of the Network Presbytery shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.
2. A summary report of actions of the Network Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery that are deemed important and of interest to the Network constituency by the Network superintendent or Network Presbytery shall be disseminated within 60 days of said action.
3. The Network Presbytery shall act as the Network Credentials Committee and may delegate this authority to the Executive Presbytery when needed except in matters of discipline of credential holders. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 2.)
4. The Network Presbytery shall serve as a nominating committee as directed by the Bylaws.

G. General Presbyters

1. Term of Office

The superintendent, the assistant superintendent, and the Executive Director of Ministerial Development shall serve as general presbyters by virtue of office. Their term of office as general presbyters shall be concurrent with the terms of the before-named offices.

2. Duties

The general presbyters shall represent the Network at all sessions of the General Council and the General Presbytery and shall draw from the Network general fund such amounts as are deemed necessary to adequately cover their traveling expenses.

H. Sectional Presbyters

1. Election and Ratification

- a. Sectional presbyters shall fulfill the qualifications of Article IV, Section 1 as well as being ordained senior pastors in their respective sections. They shall be elected at the sectional councils prior to the Annual Network Council by credential holders of the section and duly accredited church delegates. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. Voting shall continue until a nominee receives two-thirds of the votes cast. Electees shall be subsequently ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Network Council.

- b. Should an electee for the office of sectional presbyter not be ratified by the Annual Network Council, the respective section shall caucus and elect another to be presented for ratification.
- 2. Term of Office
Sectional presbyters shall serve for a term of three year, such term to begin at the adjournment of the Annual Network Council.
- 3. Duties
 - a. The sectional presbyter shall head all sectional functions and be chairman of the meetings in his respective section. Any pastor or assembly desiring advice or aid may seek the assistance of the presbyter of the section who, if he/she is unable to satisfactorily resolve the matter, shall solicit the help of the superintendent.

I. Intercultural Ministry Presbyter

- 1. Election and Ratification
 - a. The Intercultural Ministry Presbyter shall fulfill the qualifications of Article IV. Section 1 of the Network Bylaws, further the candidate must be proficient in English in order to fully participate and be engaged in presbytery meetings of the Network. Because the Intercultural Ministry Presbyter does not represent a “geographic area” as other presbyters, the first Intercultural Ministry Presbyter shall be nominated by the Network Superintendent and ratified by the Network presbytery. Subsequently, the Intercultural Ministry Development Team shall provide at least one name to the Network Presbytery for approval and subsequent vote at the Network Council. His or her term of office shall be the same as that of a geographic presbyter. Because of the nature of this position, the Intercultural Ministry Presbyter shall fall under the leadership and work portfolio of the Superintendent.
 - b. Should an electee for the office of Intercultural Ministry Presbyter not be ratified by the Annual Network Council, the Intercultural Ministry Development Team shall caucus and name another to be presented for ratification.
- 2. Term of Office
The Intercultural Ministry Presbyter shall serve for a term of three years, such term to begin at the adjournment of the Annual Network Council.
- 3. Duties
 - a. The Intercultural Ministry Presbyter shall serve the Network by being a bridge between the Network and its diverse language/ethnic ministers and ministries.
 - b. The Intercultural Ministry Presbyter shall chair the Intercultural Ministry Development Team.
 - c. The Intercultural Ministry Presbyter will assist the geographic presbyters and Network executive team with issues that may arise with individual ethnic/language ministers and or ministries.

J. Under 40 Representative Presbyter

1. Election and Ratification

a. The Under 40 Representative Presbyter shall be an ordained minister of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, proven accountability and Christian character (I Timothy 3:6-7; Deuteronomy 34:9; Acts 6:3; Daniel 1:3, 11; I Peter 4:11; Philippians 2:15; Acts 24:16). Because of the nature of this position, the Under 40 Representative Presbyter shall fall under the leadership and work portfolio of the Superintendent. Because the Under 40 Representative Presbyter does not represent a "geographic area" as other presbyters, the Under 40 Representative Presbyter shall be nominated by the Network Superintendent and ratified by the Network Presbytery at their next meeting.

2. Term of Office

The Under 40 Representative Presbyter shall serve for a term of three years, such term to begin at the adjournment of the Annual Network Conference. The nominee must be under 40 years of age at the time of election. They shall complete their term regardless of age.

3. Duties

The Under 40 Representative Presbyter shall serve the Network by being a bridge between the Network and its ministers who are under forty years of age and represent their unique challenges and strengths to the Presbytery.

K. Female Representative Presbyter

1. Election and Ratification

a. The Female Representative Presbyter shall be an ordained minister of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, proven accountability and Christian character (I Timothy 3:6-7; Deuteronomy 34:9; Acts 6:3; Daniel 1:3, 11; I Peter 4:11; Philippians 2:15; Acts 24:16). Because of the nature of this position, the Female Representative Presbyter shall fall under the leadership and work portfolio of the Superintendent. Because the Female Representative Presbyter does not represent a "geographic area" as other presbyters, the Female Representative Presbyter shall be nominated by the Network Superintendent and ratified by the Network Presbytery at their next meeting.

2. Term of Office

The Female Representative Presbyter shall serve for a term of three years, such term to begin at the adjournment of the Annual Network Conference.

3. Duties

The Female Representative Presbyter shall serve the Network by

being a bridge between the Network and its female ministers. They shall represent their unique challenges and strengths to the Presbytery.

Section 3. Vacancies

- A. Any office in the Network may be declared vacant by an act of a two-thirds majority of the Network Presbytery. Grounds for such election shall be:
 - 1. Unscriptural conduct.
 - 2. Doctrinal departure from the faith.
 - 3. Incompetency in office.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in the Network superintendent's office, the assistant superintendent shall assume the responsibilities of the office until a successor is chosen in a Network council called for the purpose of filling that office. If the vacancy occurs within 60 days of an Annual Network Council, no special Network council shall be called.
- C. In the event of a vacancy in any other executive office, a special Network council shall be called to fill that vacancy. If the vacancy occurs within 60 days of an Annual Network Council, no special Network council shall be called.
- D. In the event of a vacancy in a sectional presbyter's office, a special sectional council, chaired by a Network executive officer, shall convene for the purpose of electing a new sectional presbyter to fill the unexpired term. The Network Presbytery shall ratify the electee.
- E. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Executive Director of Minister Development or the Executive Director of Church Development, a nominating committee consisting of two sectional presbyters and four ordained ministers shall be appointed by the superintendent and also chaired by the superintendent.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed by the Annual Network Council or by the superintendent in cooperation with the Network Presbytery, and the term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next Annual Network Council.

Section 2. Credentials Committees

- A. The Network Presbytery shall constitute the Network Credentials Committee.
- B. The sectional credentials committees shall be comprised of one Network executive, the sectional presbyter along with one ordained minister appointed by the sectional presbyter from the section. The Intercultural Ministries Presbyter shall participate as needed, in the credential committee of the sections. They shall meet as needed for the purpose of

interviewing candidates from their area. This committee shall make recommendations to the Network Credentials Committee for further action.

- C. Each year prior to the Annual Network Council, the Network Credentials Committee shall meet to examine candidates for ordination according to Network Bylaws, Article I, Section 4.

Section 3. Resolutions Committee

- A. A resolutions committee with a chairman shall be appointed by the Network superintendent following each Annual Network Council. It is recommended that this committee shall include a minimum of two members who have served on the committee during the previous year. All resolutions for presentation to the Annual Network Council shall be presented to the secretary's office at least 60 days prior to an Annual Network Council session. Immediately thereafter, the secretary shall transfer them to the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, who shall then meet with the Resolutions Committee for the purpose of reviewing and editing the resolutions. Any revision shall be made with the consent of the author.
- B. At least 45 days prior to an Annual Network Council session, the Resolutions Committee shall meet with the Executive Presbytery to discuss and prioritize the resolutions.
- C. At least 30 days prior to an Annual Network Council session, the resolutions shall be sent to all the assemblies and credential holders in printed form. This does not apply to business growing out of the Executive Presbytery or the Network Presbytery meetings just prior to the Annual Network Council.
- D. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author.

Section 4. Special Committees

Special committees may be created at the Annual Network Council while in session or by the Network Presbytery between sessions as may be required.

ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1. Quorum

All accredited credential holders and delegates for the Annual Network Council who are present and registered by the Roster Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Suggested Order of Business

- A. Devotional
- B. Recognition of committees
- C. Report of the Roster Committee
- D. Report of the superintendent

- E. Secretarial Report
- F. Treasury Report
- G. Executive Director of Ministerial Development Report
- H. Executive Director of Church Development Report
- I. Report of department directors
- J. Report of committees
- K. Unfinished business
- L. Election of officers
- M. New business
- N. Adjournment

Section 3. Parliamentary Order

The work of the Annual Network Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE VII. SECTIONS

Section 1. Purpose

The Network shall be divided into geographical sections to promote home missions and inter-assembly fellowship, unite sectional activities and afford opportunity for fellowship and mutual counsel for the ministry of the section. Final determination of sectional boundaries shall be established by the Annual Network Council.

Section 2. Organization

A. Sectional officers

Each section shall elect a presbyter as provided in the Network Bylaws (Article IV, Section 2,h, (1) Election and Ratification). A Secretary-Treasurer may be elected by the section. The term of office shall begin immediately upon election.

B. Sectional representatives

1. Except for the sectional missions representative who is elected by the section, each department director shall submit a name, in writing, to the superintendent, the sectional presbyter, and the prospective nominee's pastor for approval.
2. The department director shall then approach the prospective nominee to see if he/she is willing and able to serve.
3. The name shall then be presented to the Network Presbytery for ratification.
4. The sectional representatives shall serve for a one year term. Except for the Sectional Missions Representative whose term should be concurrent with that of the Sectional Presbyter.

ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS AND MINISTRIES

All departments shall be created by the Annual Network Council. They shall be amenable to the Network Presbytery. Each department shall operate within guidelines and procedures established by the respective departments under the general supervision of the Network Presbytery.

Section 1. Christian Education Department

A. Purpose

1. To coordinate Network, sectional and local Christian education efforts.
2. To promote spirituality, efficiency, growth and development of established Christian education programs and to assist in establishment and organization of new Christian education programs.
3. To encourage every Sunday school in the Network to attain to the standard of accepted Sunday school guidelines as set forth by the national Sunday School Department.

B. Government and Organization

1. Department Director

The departmental director shall be appointed by the Network superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office under a newly elected superintendent shall begin on October 1st of that year and shall be concurrent with that of the superintendent who appointed him. He/she may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery.

2. Committees

The Network Sunday School Committee shall consist of the department director and the sectional and Intercultural Ministry Representative.

Section 2. Youth Department

A. Purpose

1. To promote the spiritual life of the youth of the Network.
2. To provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, training and evangelism.

B. Government and Organization

1. Department Director

The departmental director shall be appointed by the Network superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office under a newly elected superintendent shall begin on October 1st of that year and shall be concurrent with that of the Superintendent who appointed him. He/she may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery.

2. Committees

The Network Youth Committee shall consist of the department director and the sectional and Intercultural Ministry Representative.

Section 3. Women's Ministries Department

A. Purpose

1. To encourage the development of the Women's Ministries in the local church and Network through organizational help, training and Network sponsored events.
2. To encourage women in the ministries of intercessory prayer, personal evangelism and fellowship.
3. To correlate the work of the women with the needs of missions and benevolences in such a way that the needs may be met quickly and equitably, with each local group carrying its proportionate share of service.
4. To organize and promote a Girls Ministries program.

B. Government and Organization

1. Department director

The departmental director shall be appointed by the Network superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office shall be concurrent with that of the superintendent who appointed her. She may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery.

2. Committees

- a. Executive Women's Ministries Committee shall be composed of the department director, Girls Ministries coordinator, the Ministry Wives Director or an appointee of the superintendent and a representative from a local assembly. The representative shall be appointed by the director and ratified by the superintendent.
- b. The Women's Ministries Committee shall be composed of the Executive Women's Ministries Committee and the sectional and Intercultural Ministry Representative.

Section 4. Men's Ministries Department

A. Purpose

1. To identify, develop, and network the Men's Ministry Directors of the local church across Southern New England.
2. To coordinate and help facilitate Sectional Men's Ministry events.
3. To promote Light For The Lost and administer the LFTL account for the Network.

B. Government and Organization

1. Men's Ministries Director

The Men's Ministries Director shall be appointed by the Network Superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office shall be concurrent with that of the Superintendent who appointed him. They may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The Director must be an ordained minister in good standing with the Network.

2. Committee

The Men's Ministry Committee shall be composed of the Department Director, the Sectional Men's Representatives, and the Royal Rangers Director.

3. Sectional Men's Ministries Representatives

Men's Ministries Reps shall be appointed by the Men's Ministry Director. Each Representative is to be recommended by the Presbyter of the Section, approved by the pastor of his local church, and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office is to be concurrent with the Director who appointed him.

Section 5. Missions Department

A. Purpose

1. To promote the cause of missions at home and abroad.
2. To establish and develop new assemblies.
3. To encourage every assembly to participate in missions with prayer, finances and involvement in recognized missions projects.
4. To assist and encourage home missions affiliated assemblies and to guide them to the status of Network affiliated assemblies.
5. To coordinate and promote all recognized Assemblies of God missions ministries within our Network.

B. Government and Organization

1. Department Director

- a. The executive director of church development shall fill this position by virtue of his office.
- b. The executive director of church development shall be the chairperson of the Network Missions Department Committee.

2. Committees

- a. The Network Missions Committee shall be comprised of the executive director of church development and the sectional missions representatives.
- b. The sectional Missions Committee shall be comprised of the sectional presbyter, who shall serve as the chairperson, the sectional Missions Representative and the sectional Secretary-Treasurer. The executive director of church development is ex-officio member of this committee. The sectional representative shall prepare reports of all meetings for the executive director of church development indicating all pertinent information related to missions in their respective sections.
- c. The sectional missions representative shall be an elected ordained minister of the section. The three year term of office shall be concurrent with the sectional presbyter.
- d. The duties of the sectional missions committee representative shall include developing personal relationships with home missions pastors and assisting the executive director of church development.

C. Nationally Appointed Home Missionaries

1. There are five categories for national appointment.
 - a. Chi Alpha: Ministry to the college and university campuses.
 - b. Teen Challenge: Ministry to those with life controlling problems.
 - c. Urban Church Planting: Establishing churches
 - d. Urban Bible Training Centers: Establishing training centers for local people who will minister within the cities.
 - e. Special Appointment: Categories of ministry not covered by the above; but which receive Network approval.
2. Relationship and Structure
 - a. Missionaries who are ministering within the Network shall become a member of the Network.
 - b. Each missionary's ministry is subject to the Network's policies and directives.
 - c. Each missionary (except Urban Church Planters and Teen Challenge) shall have a board of directors composed of the members of the Sectional Missions Committee of his section, with provision for two additional non-committee board members.

Section 6. Music Department

A. Purpose

1. To promote worship through music throughout the Network.
2. To encourage the development of musical talents and skills.
3. To assist church music leaders on a Network and sectional basis.

B. Government and Organization

The Network music director shall be appointed by the Network superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office shall be concurrent with that of the superintendent who appointed him/her. He/she may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The music ministry shall be under the direction of the superintendent.

Section 7. Stewardship Ministries

A. Purpose

1. To promote Biblical stewardship in our Network.
2. To assist our constituency in estate planning.
3. To conserve Assemblies of God assets for ministries through deferred giving.

B. Government and Organization

The Network stewardship coordinator shall be appointed by the Network Executive Director of Ministerial Development and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office shall be concurrent with that of the Executive Director of Ministerial Development who appointed him/her. He/she may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The stewardship ministry shall be under the direction of the Executive Director of Ministerial Development.

Section 8. Senior Adult Ministries

A. Purpose

1. To promote ministry to senior adults in our Network.
2. To be a resource to our churches for ministry to senior adults.
3. To encourage senior adults to participate in activities that foster spiritual growth and health.

B. Government and Organization

The Network senior adult coordinator shall be appointed by the Network superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The term of office shall be concurrent with that of the superintendent who appointed him/her. He/she may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery. The senior adult ministry shall be under the direction of the superintendent.

Section 9. Intercultural Ministries Development Team

A. Purpose

The Intercultural Ministry Development Team's purpose is to work alongside the Intercultural Ministry Presbyter and the Network Presbytery to help promote and develop greater intercultural ministry within the Southern New England Ministry Network. Working together, the Intercultural Ministry Presbyter and Intercultural Ministry Development Team will lead toward positive change, promoting continual intercultural learning, modeling and providing opportunities for building cross-cultural relationships in the Network, making recommendations to the Presbytery for continued intercultural ministry expression and growth, and serving to help spur accountability for change.

B. Government and Organization

The Intercultural Ministry Development Team will be composed of an ethnic/language representative from each of the sections in the Network. Intercultural Ministry sectional representatives shall be leaders in good standing with the Network, his or her section, and local congregation. Ideally, the candidate will be a credential minister but in the event that a credentialed minister is unavailable, a qualified lay leader may be approved. The candidate must represent one of the diverse ethnic/language groups in the Network. Further, the candidate must be proficient in English. In the case where a representative from a diverse ethnic/language group is not available within a section, the geographic presbyter in consultation with the Intercultural Ministries Presbyter will put forth the name of a candidate for approval.

C. Selection & Term of Office

The Intercultural Ministries Development Team sectional representatives shall be selected in the same way, and serve the same term of office as other sectional departmental representatives.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES AND PROPERTY

Section 1. Finances

A. Network Funds

The Network general fund shall be available for the support of the Network officers, the network headquarters center, travel and other necessary Network expenses. All specified contributions sent to the Network headquarters are to be used for the purpose designated. All funds shall be disbursed under the supervision of the Network Presbytery.

B. Salaries and Allowances

All salaries and allowances for Network and department officers shall be determined by the Network Presbytery.

C. Credential Holders' Tithes

Each credential holder shall send, once a month, to the Network headquarters 100 percent of his or her tithes from all sources of income. Certified ministers, who are not on staff, shall send monthly 25 percent of their tithes from all sources of income. Senior retired ministers are free to distribute their tithes in the manner of their choosing. Each year, the treasurer shall send a statement of the credential holder's giving for the past year with a questionnaire that must be returned before his or her credential is renewed. Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for the Renewal of Credentials of all active credential holders. If contributions are in arrears, an opportunity shall be given to meet this deficit with the renewal. Credential holders working outside the Network shall contribute 50 percent of their tithes to the Southern New England Ministry Network.

D. Assemblies' Offerings

It is requested that each church contribute one percent of its general income to the Network headquarters and that this contribution be made on a monthly or quarterly basis.

E. Assumption of debt, credit or liabilities

1. Any increase of liabilities by the Southern New England Ministry Network, real or contingent, including real estate, must be approved by at least a 3/4 vote of the full Network Presbytery.
2. Any loans to churches and institutions by the Southern New England Ministry Network must be approved by a 3/4 vote of the full Network Presbytery.
3. A line of credit, direct or indirect, cannot be established by the Southern New England Ministry Network except for emergencies and must be approved by a 3/4 vote of the full Network Presbytery and must be paid in full within one year of the date of approval.

Section 2. Property

A. Network Administrative Properties

Properties that shall be used for administrative activities for the Network shall be held in the name of the corporation. Such properties may be

purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of only with the approval of two-thirds of the members as defined in the Network Constitution under Article VII who are present and voting at a duly called regular or special meeting of said Network Council.

B. Other Properties

Properties such as church buildings, parsonages or other buildings and land, purchased or given for the benefit of the work of God, that are held in the name of the Network, shall be administered by the Network Presbytery. The Network Presbytery shall have the right to buy, sell, transfer, lease, mortgage and exchange such properties. When a church is sufficiently able and is fully incorporated, such property may be conveyed to the church.

C. Network Guarantee of Mortgages

Any property for which the Network has become the guarantor or has an accommodating mortgage or loan must be titled to the Southern New England Ministry Network. The Network will not guarantee any mortgages or take any accommodating loans according to the Annual Network Council resolution of May 1994.

D. Maintenance and Improvement of Network Properties

In the event of an emergency which may arise between Annual Network Councils relative to the maintenance and improvement of Network properties, the Network Presbytery shall be empowered to make such improvements as may be deemed advisable.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Network council. Amendments to be adopted shall require two-thirds of all votes cast.