

CONVERGE

DRAWN TO JESUS \wedge DRAWN TOGETHER

JOHN 12:32

2016 EDITION

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Including minute from the
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MAY 22-25 2016



OHIO MINISTRY NETWORK

Ohio Ministry Network

Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God

Executive Officers

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James A. Palmer, Assistant Superintendent
Donna L. Barrett, General Presbyter

Network Executive Presbytery

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Larry D. Fletcher, Regional Nonresident—Region 2
Christopher N. Beard, Regional Nonresident—Region 3
Konan K. Stephens, Regional Nonresident—Region 4

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David L. Bittinger	Greater Cincinnati
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Kevin L. Crow	North Central
Larry A. Bogenrief	Northeast
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Philip R. Foster	South Central
Brent F. Heishman	Southeast
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**CONSTITUTION OF THE
OHIO DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC.
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshipped by man, (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the body or church of Jesus Christ; built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, Himself, being the chief cornerstone.

That the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers, who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and, under the supervision of the Holy Spirit, set over the church, pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

That the Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to the reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern, by teaching and encouraging believers in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling 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.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the State of Ohio, to be known as the Ohio Ministry Network, whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace "fill we all come in that unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name is *Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God*, which refers to the legal entity.

This corporation shall do business as (dba) the *Ohio Ministry Network*.

The term *Network Conference* refers to sessions of the corporation.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The State of Ohio shall be the territory of the Ohio Ministry Network. The network shall be divided into areas, the boundaries of which are determined by the Network Presbytery.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The Ohio Ministry Network shall be a voluntary, cooperative fellowship, based upon mutual agreements entered into by its members. It shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Ohio. It shall function in conformity and harmony with the provisions for district councils as outlined in Article V of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of the Ohio Ministry Network shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.
- f. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- g. To approve scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX and X of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- h. To have the right to buy, borrow, or otherwise acquire; to own, hold in trust, use, loan, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, invest, or otherwise dispose of funds and property, both real and chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of the work.

ARTICLE V. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Ohio Ministry Network shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as it is described in the New Testament. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

ARTICLE VI. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This statement of fundamental truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, I Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or 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 need as to these fundamental doctrines.

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

2. The One True God

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

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms "trinity" and "persons," as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead, which He expressed in specific terms of relationships, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode, is inscrutable and incomprehensible because unexplained (Luke 1:35; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 2:19; II Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3, 4).

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty, and His name one. John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zech. 14:9.

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person, nor confused as to relation, nor divided in respect to the Godhead, nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 8:17, 18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation "Lord Jesus Christ" is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It, therefore, belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Rom. 1:1-3, 7; II John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man, who, because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us (Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 1:13, 17).

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, "Son of God" describes His proper Deity, and the title "Son of Man" His proper humanity. Therefore, the title "Son of God" belongs to the order of eternity, and the title "Son of Man" to the order of time (Matt. 1:21-23; II John 3; I John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title "Son of God" solely from the fact of the incarnation or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father and that the Son is a real and eternal Son is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God, a denial of the Father and the Son and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (II John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, he sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father, that God may be all in all (Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 15:24-28).

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship, (see paragraphs b, c, and d) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22, 23; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8, 9; Rev. 7:9, 10; 4:8-11).

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; I Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 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, a renewing of the Holy Spirit, 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. 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 (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death; and a prophecy of his second coming (I Cor. 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; I 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 the 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, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, 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 (I Cor. 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 (Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor. 12:28; I Cor. 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Gal. 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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 (I Cor. 2:10-16; I Cor. 12-14).
- 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 and care for the poor and needy of the world (Gal. 5:22-26; Matt 25:37-40; Gal. 6:10; I Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold 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 (Eph. 4:11-16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Gal. 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; 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; Rom. 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; 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." (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

1. The Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God shall be an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and the principles of voluntary unity and cooperative fellowship, as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, are and shall be the principles by which this Ohio Ministry Network shall be governed.
2. Local churches of the Ohio Ministry Network shall be subject to that body, as set forth in Article XI of the General Council Constitution.
3. It is recommended that senior pastors encourage church members moving from one city to another to apply for a letter of recommendation or transfer to an assembly in the new location. It is further recommended that senior pastors within the same city consult with the senior pastor of the church from which the person is coming.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

1. All ministers holding valid fellowship certificates with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose credentials are registered with the Ohio Ministry Network, shall be recognized as members.
2. All members of churches affiliated with the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and/or The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be recognized as members, but the voting privilege shall be limited to delegates from said churches, who shall be chosen in the manner prescribed in the bylaws, Article II, Section 8.

ARTICLE IX. BUSINESS SESSIONS

Section 1. Regular Business Sessions

- a. The Ohio Ministry Network shall convene annually, pursuant to call by the Network Presbytery.
- b. Biennial Area Conferences shall be conducted in each area of the network between September 1 and November 30, according to the provisions of Article X, Section 3 of the constitution and Article II, Section 7 of the bylaws. The schedule for such Conferences shall be arranged by the area network presbyter, and the network superintendent or his/her appointee shall preside.

Section 2. Special Business Sessions

- a. Special business sessions of the Ohio Ministry Network may be called when approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Network Presbytery
- b. The right of initiative in calling for special business sessions of the Ohio Ministry Network shall belong to each ordained member of the network when occasion demands. Each request for a special business session shall be accompanied by a written statement setting forth reasons for the session and signed by fifteen (15) or more ordained members of the network, such statement to be filed with the Network Presbytery. After reviewing the written request and its reasons, the Network Presbytery shall issue a call for a special business session of the Network Conference, if two-thirds of its membership consider the action advisable and approve it with an affirmative vote.

ARTICLE X. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

- a. The executive officers shall consist of the network superintendent, the assistant network superintendent, and the nonresident general presbyter.
- b. The terms of office for the network superintendent and the assistant network superintendent shall begin 60 days after the date of election, unless otherwise authorized by the Network Executive Presbytery, and shall continue for four (4) years. The term of office for the nonresident general presbyter shall be two (2) years.
- c. The executive officers shall serve concurrent terms as the Network's three general presbyters for the General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph d.

Section 2. Network Executive Presbytery

- a. The Network Executive Presbytery shall consist of the network superintendent, assistant network superintendent, the nonresident general presbyter, and four (4) regional nonresident executive presbyters.
- b. The term of office for the four (4) regional nonresident executive presbyters shall be for two (2) years. They shall begin their term of office at the close of the Network Conference in which they are elected.

Section 3. Area Officers

- a. The area officers shall include the area network presbyter and assistant area presbyter.
- b. The area network presbyter shall serve for a term of two (2) years, beginning January 1 following ratification by the Network Executive Presbytery.
- c. The assistant area presbyter shall serve for a term of two (2) years, beginning January 1 following ratification by the Network Executive Presbytery.
- d. The following areas shall conduct their elections in the odd years:

East Central
 Greater Akron
 Greater Cleveland
 Northeast
 Southeast
 South Central
 Youngstown/Warren

The following areas shall conduct their elections in the even years:

Greater Columbus East
 Greater Columbus West
 Greater Cincinnati
 Greater Dayton
 Northwest
 North Central
 West Central

Section 4. Network Presbytery

The executive presbyters of the Ohio Ministry Network, together with the area network presbyters, shall constitute the Network Presbytery.

Section 5. Other Network Officers

The network secretary and the network finance director shall be network officers.

ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENTS

The Ohio Ministry Network shall establish and maintain departments sufficient to serve its needs.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed when necessary. The network superintendent shall make such appointments and secure their confirmation from the Network Presbytery.

Appointees shall serve from the date of appointment until adjournment of the next Network Conference.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Network Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee.

Section 3. Standing Resolutions Committee

A Standing Resolutions Committee, chaired by the network secretary, shall be appointed approximately one (1) year in advance of the Network Conference. The committee shall meet whenever necessary during the year, and shall work in concert with any structural committees and the Network Presbytery, for the purpose of bringing resolutions relating to matters of the constitution and bylaws.

The Standing Resolutions Committee shall provide needed resolutions to amend the Ohio Ministry Network Constitution and Bylaws to conform as much as possible in concept and format to the constitution and bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Special Committees

Special committees may be created while the Network Conference is in session, or by the Network Presbytery between sessions.

Section 5. Committee Reports

- a. Committees reporting to the Network Conference shall prepare their reports in printed form prior to the Network Conference and present them to the voting constituency as early in the Conference as possible.
- b. When reports contain recommendations that should take the form of resolutions, these reports shall be submitted to the Resolutions Committee prior to the presentation of the report to the Conference, thus making it possible to consider the resolutions as the next order of business after the report, if so requested in the report.

ARTICLE XIII. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1.

True Pentecostal believers shall associate together in local independently incorporated bodies known as assemblies. They shall qualify for membership in accordance with the disciplines of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2.

In order to maintain standards of righteousness in the assembly, only those known to be living consistent and overcoming lives shall be eligible for office. It is recommended that positions of official responsibility be left vacant in local assemblies in which the number of people qualified to hold office is insufficient.

Section 3.

Classifications:

a. General Council Affiliated

- (1) Provisions and requirements for General Council affiliated assemblies, including eligibility, incorporation, membership and relationship are outlined in Article XI of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and Article VI of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- (2) Network Involvement
 - (a) General Council affiliated assemblies shall be set in order or organized by a member of the Network Presbytery.
 - (b) Representation in the annual Network Conference, as set forth in the bylaws, shall be the privilege of the church.
 - (c) In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly should fail to maintain minimum requirements or scriptural order in accordance with Article XI of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God the assembly shall be subject to reversion to the status of a network affiliated assembly, until such time as General Council affiliated status may be reestablished (General Council Bylaws Article VI., Section 5.).

- (d) In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly elects by majority vote to revert to the support and control of the ODC, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, that assembly shall revert to the status of a network affiliated assembly, at the discretion of the Network Presbytery, until such time as General Council affiliated status may be reestablished (General Council Bylaws Article VI., Section 5.).
- (e) The services of both the General Council and Ohio Ministry Network are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external. In such cases, the provisions of the General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4, paragraph c. Organizational Assistance, and the General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph e. Right of Appeal, shall apply.
- (f) When a senior pastor decides to resign his/her pastorate, it is recommended he/she shall notify the network superintendent and the presbyter of his/her area before the announcement is made public.
- (g) When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, it is recommended that the advice and counsel of the network superintendent be sought and that the network superintendent be kept informed of any far-reaching changes in local church procedure.

b. Network Affiliated

- (1) Assemblies which have not matured sufficiently to be fully responsible for the maintenance of scriptural order shall be known as network affiliated assemblies. Said assemblies shall be independently incorporated bodies, spiritually bonded to the Ohio Ministry Network by the church's Articles of Incorporation. The board of directors for all network affiliated assemblies shall include the network superintendent, the network assistant superintendent, the network nonresident general presbyter, the network executive presbyter for the geographical region wherein the assembly is located, the network area presbyter for the area wherein the assembly is located, the senior pastor of the assembly, and an advisory committee member of the assembly, and shall comprise the legal voting membership and trustees of the assembly.
- (2) The assembly shall be under the general supervision of the network superintendent, the area presbyter, and the senior pastor.
- (3) Officers of the assembly shall serve at the discretion of its board of directors, which shall have the right to remove any officer or to make new appointments as may seem advisable. Upon majority vote of the board of directors of the assembly, network affiliated assemblies shall have the authority, subject to this constitution and bylaws, to acquire and hold title to real and/or chattel property in the corporate name of the assembly, and to sell, lease, mortgage, encumber, dispose of, or otherwise alienate such property.
- (4) Classification of the network affiliated assembly is defined in Article X, Section 4 of the Ohio Ministry Network Bylaws.
- (5) These churches shall be subject to the provisions for network affiliated churches as outlined in Article XI of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. Parent Affiliated Churches

Provision shall be made by district councils for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

d. Cooperating Assemblies

Provision may be made by the Ohio Ministry Network and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly according to Article XI of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XIV. DISSOLUTION

In the event this Network shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, with authority to sell such property and use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of the cessation of this Ohio Ministry Network, its Board of Trustees (or directors) shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets in accordance with the foregoing provisions within one year after the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the Ohio Ministry Network headquarters office is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

XV. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special Network Conference, when the complete content of proposed amendments has been communicated to each assembly and credentialed minister at least thirty (30) days in advance of the session in which they are to be considered. An affirmative vote from two-thirds of a quorum present shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

Upon two-thirds approval of the Network Presbytery, the network secretary shall edit this constitution for clerical and grammatical corrections and to keep in compliance with the General Council governance documents. Appropriate notifications for these corrections will be provided to the constituency of the Network.

ARTICLE I. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The executive officers, regional nonresident executive presbyters, and area officers shall be ordained ministers of ability and mature experience, whose lives and ministry are above reproach and who have been members of the Ohio Ministry Network for at least two years (at least one year for assistant area presbyters). The network secretary and network finance director shall be specifically qualified to fulfill the responsibilities assigned them in Bylaws, Article III., Sections 4 and 5 respectively. Individuals eligible for area office shall minister or reside within the area. Nominees for the office of each region's nonresident network executive presbyter shall minister or reside within that region.

ARTICLE II. NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. Nominating Ballot

For elections at Network Conference, a nominating ballot is achieved when at least one eligible nominee receives three or more votes, with all persons receiving a minimum of three votes being considered nominees. When a person receives a required majority for election on a nominating ballot, the nominee shall be declared elected without further balloting at both the Network and Area Conferences. The results of this nominating ballot, which becomes an elective ballot, shall be announced, giving the number of votes cast for each nominee.

Section 2. Elections

- a. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect.
 - (1) When twelve or more nominees are being considered and there is no election on the first elective ballot following nomination, only the five highest candidates shall be considered on the second elective ballot. If there is still no election, only the three highest candidates shall be considered on the third elective ballot. If there is still no election, only the two highest candidates shall be considered in further balloting until an election is obtained.
 - (2) When less than twelve nominees are being considered and there is no election on the first elective ballot, only the three highest candidates shall be considered on the second elective ballot. If there is still no election, only the two highest candidates shall be considered in further balloting until an election is obtained.
 - (3) Unless the required majority for election has been achieved, the qualifying names announced after each round of balloting shall not be accompanied publicly by their corresponding number of votes until, following the procedures outlined above, only the names of the three highest candidates are announced.
- b. Election of area officers at Area Conferences shall require a simple majority of votes cast. Ratification ballots for area officers shall be by two-thirds majority vote of the Network Executive Presbytery.
- c. All votes for elections and ratifications shall be by secret ballot.

Section 3. Network Executive Presbytery

- a. Executive Officers
 - (1) The network superintendent and the nonresident general presbyter shall be nominated by secret ballot.

- (2) The Network Presbytery shall present to the Network Conference one (1) or more nominees for the office of assistant network superintendent. One or more alternate nominees selected by the Network Presbytery shall be presented for election when a sole nominee is not elected on an initial ballot.
 - (3) Executive Officers shall not serve as an area network presbyter or regional nonresident executive presbyter while serving as an executive officer.
- b. Regional Nonresident Executive Presbyters
- (1) Four regional nonresident executive presbyters shall be elected to serve with the network superintendent, assistant network superintendent, and network nonresident general presbyter, making a total of seven (7) to serve on the Network Executive Presbytery of the network.
 - (2) The network shall be divided into four (4) regions. A regional nonresident executive presbyter shall be elected from each of the four (4) regions. Region 1 shall consist of the Greater Cleveland, Northeast, and Youngstown/Warren areas. Region 2 shall consist of the Greater Akron, East Central, Southeast, and South Central areas. Region 3 shall consist of the Greater Cincinnati, Greater Dayton, and West Central Areas. Region 4 shall consist of the Northwest, North Central, Greater Columbus East, and Greater Columbus West areas.
 - (3) The Network Presbytery shall appoint a Nominating Committee of four (4) ordained ministers, one (1) of whom shall be an area network presbyter. These individuals shall serve with the network superintendent acting as chairman. The committee, meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Network Conference, shall select twelve (12) or more nominees, three (3) or more from each region, to be placed before the Network Conference for election.
 - (4) No one shall serve as area network presbyter and regional nonresident executive presbyter concurrently.

Section 4. General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyter

Subject to the provisions of Article II of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Ohio network nominees for the Great Lakes General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyter shall be selected as follows:

- a. The network superintendent, by virtue of office, shall be one nominee from the Ohio Ministry Network to be presented to the General Council for election as General Council nonresident executive presbyter.
- b. At the Network Conference just prior to the General Council, one nominee from the Ohio Ministry Network shall be elected from the candidates approved by the Network Presbytery to be presented to the General Council for election as General Council nonresident executive presbyter. The nominee must be an ordained minister, other than an elected, full-time network official. The nominee's life and ministry must be above question. There is no minimum residence requirement.

Section 5. Other Network Officers

The Network Executive Presbytery shall serve as an interview committee and shall make recommendations to the Network Presbytery, which shall be charged with the responsibility of appointing the network secretary and the network finance director.

Section 6. Area Officers

- a. Area Officers shall be elected in Area Conferences according to the provisions of Article X, Section 3 of the constitution, between September 1 and November 30 pursuant to communication by the network office to each assembly and credentialed minister in the area at least thirty (30) days in advance. Elections of Area Officers shall be ratified by the Network Executive Presbytery (by the end of the calendar year) following the Area Conferences with the use of a prepared ballot bearing the names of those individuals chosen in the various areas, thereby providing the Network Executive Presbytery with an opportunity to express its wish regarding each candidate.
- b. The network superintendent or his/her appointee, other than incumbents and ministers eligible for area offices, shall preside over the elections. The same procedure as outlined in Sections 1 & 2 of this article shall be followed to elect Area Officers.

Section 7. Voting Constituency

- a. In accordance with Article V, Section 4 of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, the voting constituency for Network Conferences in the Ohio network shall consist of all ordained, licensed and certified ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, who are present and registered at network meetings. The same shall apply to Area Conferences.
- b. A delegate elected by an affiliated assembly or appointed by the official board of an affiliated assembly shall have a letter of authorization from the secretary of the same to be eligible to vote. Each General Council affiliated assembly shall be entitled to two (2) lay delegates, each network affiliated assembly and parent affiliated assembly shall be entitled to one (1) lay delegate.

Section 8. Vacancies

- a. Any office in the network may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the Network Presbytery. Grounds for such action may include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) Death.
 - (2) Unscriptural conduct.
 - (3) Doctrinal departure from the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 - (4) Failure to perform required duties of the office.

Any elected incumbent thus affected shall be fully informed of the action and the reason for it; also, shall have the right of appeal to the Network Conference in its next regular or special session, provided such appeal is made in writing to the network secretary acting at said meeting.

- b. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the network superintendent, the assistant network superintendent shall assume the responsibilities of the office until a successor is chosen under regulations governing this office to fill the unexpired term at the next regular or special session of the Ohio Ministry Network.
- c. When a vacancy occurs in any office of the Network Executive Presbytery other than the network superintendent, the network superintendent's appointee, ratified by the Network Presbytery within sixty (60) days of the vacancy, shall assume the responsibilities of the office until a successor is chosen under regulations governing the office to fill the unexpired term at the next regular or special session of the Ohio Ministry Network.

- d. When a vacancy occurs in an area office or when the area officer's election is not ratified, a special business meeting shall be conducted in that area within sixty (60) days to elect a successor to fill the unexpired term. The network office shall communicate meeting details thirty (30) days in advance of the same to each assembly and credentialed minister within the area. A successor shall be chosen under regulations governing Area Conferences and shall be ratified by the Network Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the Network Superintendent

- a. The network superintendent shall emphasize and implement the fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.
- b. The network superintendent shall be general superintendent of all work on the field conducted in behalf of the Ohio Ministry Network.
- c. The network superintendent shall supervise the work of the Ohio Ministry Network, act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- d. The network superintendent shall preside at the meetings of the Network Presbytery, the Network Executive Presbytery, and the Network Conference, and receive all communications directed to those bodies.
- e. The network superintendent shall preside at all meetings of the Ohio Ministry Network Credentials Committee.
- f. The network superintendent shall administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Credentials Committee.
- g. The network superintendent shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents on behalf of the corporation.
- h. The network superintendent shall serve as a member of the Finance Committee. He shall be authorized to perform any other function usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the Ohio Ministry Network, the Network Presbytery, or by the Network Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Duties of the Assistant Network Superintendent

- a. The assistant network superintendent shall assist the network superintendent, including the supervision of one or more departments or initiatives, as assigned by the network superintendent.
- b. The assistant network superintendent shall preside at meetings in the absence of the network superintendent.
- c. The assistant network superintendent shall assist the network superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field and perform any other function under the supervision of the network superintendent that may be requested by the Ohio Ministry Network or the Network Presbytery.
- d. The assistant network superintendent shall act as vice-president of the corporate body and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- e. At the direction of the network superintendent, the assistant network superintendent shall:

- (1) Assist in the conducting of church business meetings.
- (2) Assist in the settling of internal church disputes.
- (3) Carry out other assignments related to church development.

Section 3. Duties of Executive Officers

- a. The Executive Officers shall fulfill duties as assigned herein and by the Network Executive Presbytery and/or the Network Presbytery, or as empowered by the Network Presbytery.
- b. As general presbyters, the executive officers shall communicate to the constituency of the network the important organizational decisions of the General Presbytery. Such information shall be in accordance with policy set forth by the Network Presbytery.

Section 4. Duties of the Network Secretary

- a. The network secretary shall compile and preserve true records of the proceedings of the network and shall communicate the same to each assembly and credentialed minister as approved and directed by the Network Presbytery.
- b. The network secretary shall keep a record of all ministers and assemblies in the fellowship, handling oversight of all official communication pertaining thereto with appropriate General Council personnel and committees.
- c. The network secretary shall serve as secretary of the corporation and shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or may be requested by the Ohio Ministry Network or Network Presbytery. Unless otherwise directed by the network superintendent, the network secretary shall serve as an auditor of all meetings of the Network Executive Officers, the Network Executive Presbytery, the Network Presbytery, and the Network Finance Committee and other committees as requested by the network superintendent and shall compile and preserve true records of the proceedings of these bodies in session.
- d. The network secretary shall oversee the annual communication to each assembly and credentialed minister of the revised network constitution and bylaws, the Network Conference minutes, and the annually revised network directory of those credentialed.
- e. The network secretary shall secure a master insurance policy to insure properties held in the name of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, the Heartland Conference Retreat Center, and incorporated network affiliated churches.
- f. The network secretary shall communicate a synopsis of non-personal decisions of the Network Presbytery to each assembly and credentialed minister.
- g. The network secretary shall maintain minutes of all matters considered and all resolutions offered or upon which action was taken in meetings of the Executive Officers, the Network Presbytery, or the Network Executive Presbytery. The network secretary shall note the identity of all persons participating in the meeting.
- h. The network secretary shall edit and frame resolutions and resulting amendments to the constitution and bylaws so that they appear in proper form.
- i. Upon a vacancy in the office of senior pastor of a General Council church, the network secretary shall communicate to the church board the General Council position that General Council churches be pastored by a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and the Ohio Ministry Network.
- j. Following a 30-day waiting period to allow for reinstatement efforts, the network secretary shall forward to the attention of the church board a copy of General Council notification to a church's senior pastor that his/her credentials are no longer valid.
- k. The network secretary shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents on behalf of the corporation.

Section 5. Duties of the Network Finance Director

- a. The network finance director shall serve as the treasurer of the corporation.
- b. The network finance director shall be custodian of all funds of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, and the Heartland Conference Retreat Center.
- c. The network finance director shall keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements and shall conduct the work of his/her office according to accepted methods of business.
- d. The network finance director shall give a report from time to time and shall perform such other duties as may be requested by the Ohio Ministry Network or the Network Presbytery.
- e. The network finance director shall be bonded and shall present his/her books for audit or review as prescribed in Article V. Section 6.
- f. The network finance director shall assist in the formulation of network budgets and shall serve as a member of the Network Finance Committee.
- g. The network finance director shall act as a resource person to network committees.
- h. The network finance director shall be responsible for the supervising of the day-to-day operation of the office, as provided for in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.
- i. In the performance of his/her duties the network finance director is immediately accountable to the network superintendent.
- j. At the direction of the network superintendent, the network finance director shall assist churches with finances and loans.

Section 6. Duties of an Area Network Presbyter

- a. The area network presbyter shall serve as chairman of the area by virtue of office and shall represent the Ohio Ministry Network in the fulfillment of its mission, values, work, interests, and concerns in the area.
- b. The area network presbyter shall perform those duties assigned him/her by the Network Executive Officers. He/She shall have the general oversight of all phases of the work in his/her area, shall be subject to call by the network superintendent to aid in administrative or disciplinary work in the churches of his/her area or any other area, and shall be an ex officio member of any department or committee functioning within his/her area.
- c. The area network presbyter shall function according to accepted and defined procedures set forth in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 7. Duties of an Assistant Area Presbyter

- a. The assistant area presbyter shall compile, preserve and maintain true records of the area.
- b. The assistant area presbyter shall be a member of the Area Development Team and subject to the requests of the network superintendent and the area presbyter to assist in oversight of the area.
- c. The assistant area presbyter shall serve the network as a member of the Credentials Screening Committee and as otherwise called upon by the Executive Officers.

Section 8. Duties of the Network Presbytery

- a. The Network Presbytery shall act as the Board of Directors of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and represent the corporation in all matters of its business proceedings, including the approval and communication of the minutes of all special and regular Network Conferences.

- b. The Network Presbytery shall have general oversight of all network activity between Network Conference sessions and shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters of interest and concern unless the Ohio Ministry Network shall otherwise direct.
- c. The Network Presbytery shall arrange for its own meetings and report to the Ohio Ministry Network at appropriate times.
- d. The decisions of the Network Presbytery shall be final unless reversed by the Network Conference in session.
- e. In years when the General Council of the Assemblies of God calls for the election of one or more nominees from the Ohio Ministry Network for the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery, the Network Presbytery may provide a list of qualified initial nominees for consideration by the Network Conference in session.

Section 9. Duties of the Network Executive Presbytery

- a. The Network Executive Presbytery shall manage all property of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and shall have the authority to purchase, sell, lease, encumber, or otherwise dispose of all property of the corporation except in the case of the purchase or sale of real estate at which time a two-thirds vote from the Network Presbytery shall be required.
- b. The members of the Network Executive Presbytery shall constitute the membership of the corporation known as "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God," which shall hold title to all the property of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God," except those properties which, by agreement between the respective boards of the "Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God" and "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God," may be held in the name of the "Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God."
- c. The Network Executive Presbytery shall assist the network superintendent in special credentials-related matters as needed and shall authorize all credentials-related Interview Committees for applicants, upgrades, reinstatements, divorce recognitions, discipline, etc., and shall instruct Interview Committees to forward their recommendations to the Network Presbytery, the Network Credentials Committee.
- d. It shall fulfill other responsibilities assigned or delegated to it by the Network Presbytery. It shall arrange for its own meetings and report to the Network Presbytery at appropriate times.

ARTICLE IV. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. Authorization

The departments of the Ohio Ministry Network shall be established by the Network Presbytery and identified in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 2. Qualifications and Duties of Departmental Directors

The qualifications and duties of departmental directors shall be provided for in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 3. Selection of Departmental Directors, Staff, and Auxiliary Directors

The selection of departmental directors, staff and auxiliary directors shall be guided by processes defined in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

ARTICLE V. FINANCE

Section 1. Finance Committee

- a. There shall be a Network Finance Committee consisting of the executive officers, the regional nonresident executive presbyters, the network finance director, and four (4) members of the constituency at large.
- b. The Finance Committee shall examine the departmental budgets submitted and present a recommended budget to the Network Presbytery for approval.
- c. The Finance Committee shall meet as needed to perform duties delegated by the Network Presbytery and/or the Network Executive Presbytery to examine the operation of the network budget. This committee shall present recommendations to the Network Executive Presbytery on matters relating to the property of the corporation and to the Network Presbytery with regard to all other matters. Upon resolution of the Network Presbytery, the Finance Committee may be authorized to take any action which the Network Presbytery could take, subject only to the limitations of said resolution.

Section 2. Income

It is recommended that the Ohio Ministry Network be supported in the following manner:

- a. All credentialed ministers shall contribute no less than eighty (80) percent of their tithes as dues to the network from both ministerial and secular incomes, forwarding the same to the executive finance officer each month. A minister who has an arrangement with his/her local church or ministry to forward his/her tithes/dues directly to the network office is responsible to see that this is done on a timely basis.
- b. Newly credentialed ministers may request to participate in graduated network tithing on a temporary basis as follows: 20% during the first year holding credentials; 40% during the second year holding credentials; 60% during the third year holding credentials; 80% during the fourth year holding credentials and thereafter.
- c. It is also recommended that each local church make a monthly 2% contribution of its general fund income to support network ministries (1%) and Heartland Conference Retreat Center (1%).

Section 3. Disbursements

- a. Each department director shall be required to submit an annual budget to the Finance Committee, detailing anticipated income and expenditures on a form provided by the committee. This budget shall be submitted no later than November 10 of the year preceding the fiscal and calendar year for which the budget is submitted.
- b. The financial remuneration, including salary and expenses of executive officers, departmental directors, and other network personnel, shall be determined and authorized by the Network Presbytery.
- c. There shall be a benevolence fund for the purpose of helping to meet emergency short-term needs of Ohio Ministry Network credentialed ministers, their widows or widowers, and aged ministers.

Section 4. Banking of Funds

Network funds shall be deposited in a bank selected by the executive officers. The network finance director, network superintendent, assistant network superintendent, and network secretary shall be signatories for all accounts and may either deposit or withdraw funds.

Section 5. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for all departments shall run concurrently with the calendar year.

Section 6. Auditing

The network finance director's books shall be audited by an accountant approved by the Network Presbytery every third year, with an auditor's review on the other years unless otherwise requested by the Network Presbytery. Said audit and/or review shall be studied by the Finance Committee, which shall move its adoption at the Network Conference, thus eliminating the reading of the entire report in the Conference session.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY

Section 1. General Council Credentials

Provisions for ministry including qualifications, credentialing, classifications, relations, cooperation, doctrinal standards, and discipline are outlined in Articles VII, IX, and X of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Network Recommendations

Recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee by the Network Presbytery regarding ministers shall be by a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. Ministerial Relations

Recognizing the critical importance of healthy and cooperative relationships among ministers and congregations for building the kingdom of God, the following is recommended:

- a. That credentialed ministers in the same community relate to each other as fellow laborers, modeling respect, unity and cooperation as a team of spiritual leaders.
- b. That credentialed ministers seek doctrinal compatibility when co-sponsoring ministries with non-Assemblies of God churches.
- c. That credentialed ministers desiring to participate in non-Assemblies of God settings in other communities first confer with the Assemblies of God senior pastors in those communities, as an expression of cooperative fellowship.
- d. That leaders of sovereign local churches communicate with network leadership when dealing with difficult and complicated circumstances.
- e. That local church boards and advisory committees seek assistance and guidance from network leadership when pastoral transitions occur.
- f. That credentialed ministers recognize network leadership as a valuable resource for counsel and wisdom when considering ministry transitions.
- g. That credentialed ministers refrain from serving on local church boards.
- h. That the network directory of credentialed ministers and churches not be used for solicitation purposes.

Section 4. Failure to Fulfill Financial Responsibility to the Network

- a. The network secretary shall oversee communication from the network to each credentialed minister who fails to contribute eighty (80) percent of his/her tithes to the network within a given quarter, with the exception of disabled and/or senior retired ministers thus approved by the network who have no further obligation of financial support to the network.

- b. Should the network's initial communication prove ineffective, further communication approved by the Network Presbytery shall be followed, which may include an invitation to meet with the Network Executive Presbytery to address the matter.
- c. Should the network's further communication and redemptive steps approved by the Network Presbytery prove ineffective, the network may proceed with actions that include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Informing the governing authority or organizational leader of the local church or ministry where the credentialed minister presently serves or affiliates, or is in consideration to serve or affiliate regarding the minister's failure to fulfill his/her financial responsibility to the network;
 - (2) Reclassifying the credentialed minister's status as "not in good standing" with the Ohio Ministry Network;
 - (3) Not renewing the credentials of the minister.

ARTICLE VII. CORPORATE PROVISIONS

Section 1. Authorization

- a. There shall be a corporation known as the "Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God" a corporation known as "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God," and a corporation known as the "Heartland Conference Retreat Center." Each of the corporations shall be imbued with all powers, rights, and provisions granted pursuant to the applicable provisions of the State of Ohio Revised Code ss 1702.01 etseq. and ss 1715.01 etseq., including, but not limited to, the right to acquire, hold in trust, manage, and convey real and/or chattel property. The Network Executive Presbytery of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God shall hold title to the various properties.
- b. The executive officers of the "Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God" shall be the executive officers of "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and the Heartland Conference Retreat Center."

Section 2. Identification and Procedure

- a. The members of the Network Executive Presbytery shall constitute the corporation known as "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God," and a corporation known as "Heartland Conference Retreat Center," unless at anytime the Network Executive Presbytery shall find itself without a member who is a "resident freeholder of the State of Ohio" according to the meaning of the law, in which case the Network Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a "resident freeholder" to act with it on The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, and the Heartland Conference Retreat Center.
- b. All properties that may be acquired for network affiliated assemblies shall be deeded to "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God" to be held in trust by said board until the assembly is duly established and incorporated consistent with this constitution and bylaws, at which time the property shall be transferred to said corporation.

- c. Any General Council affiliated assembly requiring network assistance to obtain a loan will be required, pursuant to a two-thirds vote of its membership, to modify its affiliation status to that of a network affiliated assembly, subject to all provisions of this constitution and bylaws, including the amendment of its Articles of Incorporation to conform to the requirements contained therein. Upon release of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and the release of The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God from all liability with regard to said obligation, provided the assembly meets all other qualifications and upon ratification by the Network Presbytery, said assembly shall again be franchised as a General Council affiliated assembly.

ARTICLE VIII. MISSIONS

Section 1. Leadership

- a. The network superintendent or his/her appointee from among the executive officers shall serve as executive missions director.
- b. The network superintendent and the executive missions director shall appoint a network missions director. This appointment shall be ratified by the Network Presbytery.
- c. The network superintendent, the executive missions director, and the network missions director shall appoint the Network Missions Committee as directed in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery. The network superintendent or his/her appointee shall be chairman of the Network Missions Committee.

Section 2. Relationships

- a. All Ohio missionaries and missions ministries appointed by Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and Assemblies of God World Missions shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the Ohio Ministry Network and according to the provisions of Articles XIII and XIV of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared jointly by the Ohio Ministry Network and either Assemblies of God U.S. Missions or Assemblies of God World Missions.
- b. All missionaries and missions ministries shall be expected to cooperate with the mission's policies and initiatives of the network.
- c. Ohio Assemblies of God missionaries and missions ministries should be given priority consideration by Ohio network churches and areas for financial support, networking opportunities and partnership in missions projects. Non-Ohio Assemblies of God missionaries and missions ministry representatives shall arrange their itineraries with the knowledge of the network missions director.
- d. Missionaries and missions ministries shall seek pledges from assemblies and constituents of the Ohio Ministry Network only when this action has been approved by the respective senior pastor.

Section 3. Cooperative Support

- a. Churches
 - (1) Each church in the Ohio Ministry Network shall be encouraged to send monthly offerings to Assemblies of God U.S. and World missions personnel and ministries. Churches should maintain balance in missions giving reflecting global, national, state and local priorities (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

(2) Churches shall be encouraged to prioritize financial support of Ohio Assemblies of God missionaries, missions ministries, and missions projects.

(3) Church leaders may seek the counsel of the network missions director prior to hosting or supporting agents or missionaries of non-Assemblies of God missions organizations.

b. Senior Pastors

All senior pastors shall cooperate with Assemblies of God missions endeavors. This includes hosting missionaries for services and meetings, providing opportunity for missions offerings to be given, and leading the church in making individual and corporate pledges for financial and prayer support for missions.

ARTICLE IX. CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

Section 1. Leadership

- a. A Church Multiplication Director shall be appointed by the network superintendent and the executive missions director and be ratified by the Network Presbytery. The duties of the Church Multiplication Director shall be specified in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.
- b. The selection process and duties of a Church Multiplication Network Team shall be outlined in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 2. Funding

It is recommended that monthly offerings for Church Multiplication be sent by local churches totaling at least 1% of their general fund income. Other methods of funding may be approved by the Church Multiplication Network Team, the executive missions director, and the network superintendent.

ARTICLE X. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Guidelines

Foundational guidelines for all churches in the Ohio Ministry Network, whether General Council affiliated or network affiliated, are included in Article XI of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and Article VI of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Area Alignment

- a. Local assemblies shall be organized in areas, with the Network Presbytery having the prerogative of assigning churches to areas. Area composition shall be noted in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery and published in the network directory.
- b. A local assembly desiring to change areas shall authorize their pastor to notify the network superintendent in writing. The network superintendent will provide counsel and advise the pastor of procedural directives outlined in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 3. Reversion of property

The Ohio Ministry Network recommends that the following be placed in the charter and/or constitution of each church affiliated with the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God:

"In the event a church ceases to operate as a church, or ceases to abide by the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God, or ceases to operate in affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, then the property shall automatically revert to and be transferred to the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God or its successor in interest, without trust limitations imposed."

Section 4. Network Affiliated Assemblies

a. Organization

- (1) Assemblies that have not yet matured to the status of a General Council affiliated assemblies shall be incorporated as independent religious entities pursuant to Ohio non-profit corporation law. The Articles of Incorporation of each assembly shall provide that the purpose of the corporation is to facilitate religious worship and assembly by persons unified by their affiliation with the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God. Each network affiliated assembly shall, within its Articles of Incorporation, affirm its acceptance of the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. The assembly shall adopt the constitution and bylaws approved by the Network Presbytery. The Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall appear in the network-provided constitution and bylaws for network affiliated assemblies.
- (2) All network affiliated assemblies shall be governed by the bylaws for network affiliated assemblies, until said assembly has been established pursuant to Article X of the bylaws of the Ohio Ministry Network. Said rules are hereby acknowledged and affirmed to be an integral part of the bylaws of the Ohio Ministry Network.

b. Classification of Network Affiliated Assemblies

- (1) Church Multiplication network affiliated assemblies are those under the direction and administration of the Church Multiplication Network Team.
 - (a) The network superintendent, in cooperation with the Church Multiplication director, shall annually appoint a senior pastor for the assembly and appoint others as may be needed in an advisory capacity.
 - (b) A Church Multiplication sponsored network affiliated assembly may, at the discretion of the Church Multiplication director, the executive missions director, and the network superintendent be reclassified as a network affiliated assembly under the direction of the network superintendent and governed by its board of directors when it has fifteen (15) bona fide members, three (3) of whom can qualify for appointment as members of an Advisory Committee.
- (2) Network affiliated assemblies are those which have not yet matured sufficiently to maintain scriptural order and to qualify for advancement to General Council status.

- (a) The assembly shall function under the direction of the network superintendent and governed by its board of directors. The day-to-day operations of the assembly shall be under the direction of the senior pastor and Advisory Committee.
- (b) The assembly shall adopt the constitution and bylaws approved by the Network Presbytery.
- (c) The network superintendent shall annually appoint a senior pastor and Advisory Committee for the assembly.
- (d) The assembly must have at least fifteen (15) bona fide members, three (3) of whom can qualify for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee.
- (e) The assembly may receive some form of network financial support.
- (f) When an assembly has established sufficient maturity to maintain scriptural order and upon approval of the Network Presbytery, an assembly may be promoted to General Council status, on the following conditions:
 - 1) The assembly must have twenty (20) or more bona fide active members, three (3) of whom can qualify for consideration and election as officers of the assembly.
 - 2) The assembly may not have any outstanding obligations for which the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God or The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God is liable, either as a primary obligor or a guarantor.

c. Administration

- (1) All network affiliated assemblies shall be governed by the board of directors and directed by a manual approved by the Network Presbytery. Church Multiplication network affiliated assemblies shall be governed by the board of directors in cooperation with the Church Multiplication Network Team.
- (2) The network superintendent, in cooperation with the board of directors, shall appoint a senior pastor for the assembly and appoint such other personnel as may be needed in an advisory capacity. The senior pastor shall serve a term of one year. All local church officers and other advisory committee members shall serve for one year, each term of office expiring on the last day of January, thus enabling new officers to assume responsibility on the first day of February. It is recommended that consideration be given to the desires and wishes of the membership in making appointments, but the choice in each case shall remain that of the network superintendent, whose selection shall be approved by the board of directors.

d. Property

All property of the assembly, whether real or chattel, shall be titled in the name of the corporation, subject to reversion to the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God. No property shall be acquired or disposed of without approval of the board of directors.

ARTICLE XI. RELEVANT POSITIONS

In its commitment to the upholding of scriptural doctrine as the most healthy response to relevant concerns regarding marriage and family and regarding doctrines and practices which are disapproved, the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God affirms Articles VIII and IX of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XII. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Institutions for Ministry Preparation

The Ohio Ministry Network shall recognize the need of vocational and marketplace ministers and missionaries and shall support the establishment and maintenance of schools whose doctrine aligns with the Statement of Fundamental Truths. It shall encourage prospective students to consider schools endorsed by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Heartland Conference Retreat Center

Heartland Conference Retreat Center, located in Peru Township, Morrow County, Ohio, owned and operated by The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, shall be maintained for the purpose of conducting camp meetings, youth camps, conferences, and such other activities as may be approved by the Network Presbytery.

ARTICLE XIII. PUBLICATIONS

The Ohio Ministry Network shall support all General Council papers and publications and any other publications authorized by the network.

ARTICLE XIV. MILITARY

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

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

ARTICLE XV. QUORUM

Section 1. Network and Area Conferences

All ministers and delegates who respond to the announcement of a Network Conference or Area Conference shall register and qualify with the Roster Committee for the voting privilege. Those present in any business session shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Other Network Meetings

At all meetings of the Network Presbytery, the Network Executive Presbytery, the Executive Officers, or any committee established by the same, a majority of the authorized constituents of each body shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XVI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Order of Business Sessions

The regular order of business for the Ohio Ministry Network shall be:

- a. Appointment of committees
- b. Report of the network superintendent
- c. Report of the assistant network superintendent
- d. Report of the executive secretary
- e. Report of the executive finance officer
- f. Election of officers (interspersed with other business)

- g. Reports of committees
- h. Unfinished business
- i. New Business
- j. Adjournment

Section 2. Reports, Resolutions, and Ballots

Guidelines for the preparation and presentation of reports, resolutions and ballots of business sessions of the Ohio Ministry Network shall be contained in an administrative manual approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 3. Parliamentary Procedure

- a. The business sessions of Network Conference and elections at Area Conferences shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.
- b. A Parliamentary Committee consisting of three (3) persons, exclusive of the Network Presbytery, shall be appointed by the Network Presbytery to serve the chair and the body, thereby helping to facilitate the business of the Council.

Section 4. Announcements of Business Sessions

Announcements of all regular and special business sessions of the Ohio Ministry Network shall be communicated to each assembly and credentialed minister by the network secretary thirty (30) days in advance of the same.

Section 5. Scheduling of Network Functions

Network functions shall not be scheduled at a time that conflicts with regular state and national elections.

Section 6. Electronic Meetings

- a. The Network Presbytery, Network Executive Presbytery, Executive Officers, or any committee designated by the same, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of any communications device by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.
- b. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Network Presbytery, the Network Executive Presbytery, or Executive Officers, may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the respective body. Any certificate with respect to the authorization or taking of any such action which is required to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State shall recite that the authorization or taking of such action was in a writing or writings approved and signed as specified pursuant to R.C. S/S 1702.25.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws may be made at any regular or special session of the Network Conference. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

Upon two-thirds approval of the Network Presbytery, the network secretary shall edit these bylaws for clerical and grammatical corrections and to keep them in compliance with General Council governance documents. Appropriate notifications of these corrections will be provided to the constituency of the Network.

RULES OF ORDER FOR UNINCORPORATED NETWORK AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES

The following Rules of Order have been adopted by the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and are affirmed to be a part of its bylaws.

These Rules shall apply to all network affiliated assemblies, until such time as they have been established in accordance with Article X of the bylaws of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God.

I. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be _____ Assembly of God.

II. AFFILIATION

This assembly shall be affiliated with the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and shall be classified as a network affiliated assembly.

III. TENETS OF FAITH

This assembly shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. In the interest of unity, it shall adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God.

IV. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism by Immersion

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

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

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

V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications

Membership in this assembly shall be open to those who possess the following qualifications:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth" (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- b. Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13,14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 1 John 1:6,7).
- d. An indication of willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which he/she is to become a member.
- e. Having reached 16 years of age.
- f. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as referenced in Article III.
- g. Having regularly attended the services of and supported this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of the application for membership.
- h. Agreement to be governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Ohio Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. Reception of Members

The senior pastor, together with the Advisory Committee, shall pass upon all candidates for membership in this assembly. Those individuals desiring to apply for membership shall fill out the application form provided by The General Council of the Assemblies of God and submit it to the senior pastor. If, after proper investigation, the applicant is endorsed for membership, he/she may be publicly received in any convenient service and his/her name inscribed upon the membership roll.

Section 3. Classification of Membership

a. Active Membership

All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership and have passed their 16th birthday shall constitute the active membership of the assembly.

b. Junior Membership

Members who shall not have passed their 16th birthday shall constitute the junior membership.

c. Associate Membership

Members who shall have moved from the city but have not transferred membership to another church or those members who by reason of physical incapacitation cannot attend service shall be classified as associate members.

d. Inactive Membership

Enrolled members of the assembly who shall willfully absent themselves from the services of the church for a period of three or more consecutive months, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings and ministries, or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen into condemnation through sinful or worldly practices shall be considered inactive by action of the senior pastor and Advisory Committee. Inactive members may be restored to an active status at the discretion of the senior pastor and Advisory Committee.

e. Voting Membership

The voting constituency of the church shall consist of all active members of the church.

Section 4. Revision of Membership Roll and Discipline of Members

- a. It shall be the duty of the senior pastor, in cooperation with the Advisory Committee, to revise the membership roll of the assembly at least once a year prior to the annual business meeting.
- b. Any individual removed from a membership classification shall have the right of protest and be entitled to a hearing before the Network Presbytery.

Section 5. Transfer of Membership

A letter of transfer, signed by the senior pastor, shall be granted upon request and sent to the senior pastor or secretary of the receiving church. It shall state whether or not the member is in good standing in the local assembly. If he is not in good standing, reason for his/her unfavorable rating shall be indicated.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Trustees

The members of the Network Presbytery of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God shall be trustees of the assembly. The trustees shall have complete authority over the assembly and shall utilize the services of the network superintendent to provide pastoral care, appoint necessary officers, etc., as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Officers

The network superintendent, in cooperation with the Network Presbytery, shall appoint a senior pastor for the assembly and such other personnel as may be needed in an advisory capacity. The senior pastor shall serve for a term of one year. All officers shall serve for one year, each term of office expiring on the last day of January, thus enabling new officers to assume responsibility on the first of February. It is recommended that consideration be given to the desires and wishes of the membership in making appointments, but the choice in each case shall remain that of the network superintendent, whose selection shall be approved by the Network Presbytery.

Section 3. Advisory Committee

The Network Presbytery shall appoint an Advisory Committee of three members to counsel with the senior pastor on matters of church policy.

Section 4. Duties of Officers

a. Senior Pastor

The senior pastor shall be recognized as the spiritual head and general overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities under the supervision of the Network Presbytery. All other officers or committees that may be appointed shall serve under his/her supervision. The senior pastor shall report to the Network Presbytery as requested, using forms provided for this purpose.

b. Secretary

The secretary shall record and preserve minutes of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He/She shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties.

c. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the assembly and shall receive and disburse the same under the direction of the senior pastor and the Board of Trustees. He/She shall deposit all funds in his/her care in a responsible bank and make all disbursements by check. He/She shall keep a true and accurate record of all monies received and disbursed. He/She shall make reports as may be requested. His/Her books shall be audited at least once a year and when he/she retires from office. This regulation shall likewise apply to the various departmental treasurers, including the custodian of missions funds.

d. Network Supervision

All officers shall serve under the direction of the senior pastor and the Network Presbytery. Any action taken by them or the assembly shall be subject to review and approval by the Network Presbytery, which shall also be recognized as having the right to remove any officer or to make new appointments as may seem advisable.

Section 5. Business Meetings

Business meetings may be arranged by the senior pastor or Network Presbytery. Adequate notice of the time and purpose of a business meeting shall be given to all members. "Adequate notice" shall be defined as a public announcement on two consecutive Sundays before the business meeting or a written announcement mailed to each member's address of record no less than three days before the meeting.

VII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Deeding of Property

All property shall be deeded to "The Board of Trustees of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God" and held in trust by that board until such time as the assembly has been established in accordance with Article X. of the bylaws of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Disposition of Property

No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same having been authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Authorization

The senior pastor of the assembly and a network official shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the Board of Trustees. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

VIII. DEPARTMENTS

All departments shall be under the direct supervision of the senior pastor, who may personally direct their activities or appoint competent leaders other than those individuals appointed by the Network Presbytery.

IX. DEVELOPMENT

The assembly may apply for recognition as General Council affiliated status in accordance with Article X of the bylaws of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God.

**THE 71ST OHIO MINISTRY NETWORK 2016
SERVICE AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER AG, DAYTON, OHIO
MAY 22-25, 2016**

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 22 – ORDINATION SERVICE

Girls Ministry Director Angel Porubsky and Network Youth Director Nate Ortiz, emcees for the evening, welcomed everyone to the Ordination service. The Dayton Christian Life Center worship team led in worship.

The emcees returned to introduce Network Secretary David Pafford and General Presbyterian Donna Barrett, who shared a biblical foundation for ministry leadership and ordination. Rev. Greg Ford was introduced and shared insights into ordination.

Lilli Bucher, an Ohio fine arts finalist, sang special music ‘His eye is on the Sparrow.’

Assistant Superintendent Jim Palmer recognized those who have been ministers for 60 years. A pillar of the church award was presented and given to Rev. Norm Nethers and Rev. Joe Serbin. Those who also have been ministers for 60 years, who were not present, were Rev. Dave Blattner and Rev. Arthur Sholtis.

Rev. Palmer presented a video greeting from General Superintendent George Wood. Dr. Wood shared about unity in doctrine and discipleship, mentioning that 17% of existing Assemblies of God churches were planted in the last 9 years.

Missionary to Argentina, Rev. Brad Walz, who has traveled the world, shared stories and statistics related to the Assemblies of God, which is present in over 200 nations, more than the United Nations. Rev. Walz noted that the Assemblies of God is the largest, practicing Protestant denomination.

Superintendent John Wootton introduced Kent State University Chi Alpha Director, Rev. Raelyn Cook, from the Ordination Class of 2015. Rev. Cook shared what transpired in the year since ordination, noting that a Muslim student gave his life to Jesus Christ, and is now following God’s plan for ministry. An offering was received for the expenses of supporting the Chi Alpha student to remain in the United States.

Rev. Wootton shared a profile of Missionary Michael Baldree and his family. Rev. Wootton also introduced Rev. Amon Kajabika, native of Rwanda, and shared his family’s journey to the United States, including Rev. Kajabika’s connection with Pastor Bruce Craig from Kettering AG.

Heroes of the faith, Rev. Serbin, Missionary Meg Thacker, Rev. Nethers, and former Superintendent Robert Crabtree, led in a powerful prayer for the candidates, their families, their ministry, and their future. The Network Presbytery came forward to lay hands in prayer on each candidate and spouse. Ordination was conferred upon the following minister: Michael Baldree, Robert Banks, Emily Barney, Jan Beard, John Bosse, Renea Brathwaite, Jonathan Buerger, Katherine Deyo, Jim Dotson, Heather Erickson, Jessica Fletcher, Karl Garber, Michael Hadinger, Linda Hercenberg, Peggy Holbrook, Amon Kajabika, Benjamin King, Ryan Nevil, David Pennington, Rick Scheer, Deedra Shilliday, Lena Shrader, Ashley Snyder, Keri Stephens, Jonathan Taylor, Scott Wehe, and Eric Zimmer.

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 23 – SERVICE WITH DR. CAROLYN TENNANT

Rev. Wootton opened the service with a time of greeting and introduced Vice President for Heartbeat International Cindi Boston. Vice President Boston shared information concerning ministry at Heartbeat International.

The 14 board member nominees were invited to stand and were recognized by the assembled for exemplary service. An offering was received for the expenses of the Network Conference and thanks were expressed to Rev. Stan Tharp and staff of Christian Life Center.

The Christian Life Center worship team led the congregation in a time of worship during which a word of prophecy was shared by Missionary Thacker. Rev. Wootton introduced guest speaker, Dr. Carolyn Tennant, former Vice-President of North Central University.

Dr. Tennant spoke on the subject, “Catch the Wind of the Spirit”, and shared the story of missionaries who sailed in a coracle with no oars or rudder and simply trusted the Holy Spirit to lead. Dr. Tennant asked, “Would you be willing to have adventures? Would we be willing to discover new continents?” Using the story of Nicodemus, from John 3:5-8, Dr. Tennant made three observations: First, would we willing to abandon everything and trust the

Spirit? Would we willing to let the wind blow and let Him take us where He wants? Or do we want to play it safe? Second, that Jesus desired that we be continually in the process of transformation. How can we lead our churches if we become stagnant? God is looking for people who are humble and will die to themselves. We must have a lifestyle of giving up our lives. Third, that “Flesh gives birth to flesh; the spirit gives birth to spirit.” Dr. Tennant stated that if we want to keep the Spirit moving in our churches, we must keep the Spirit moving in our lives. Dr. Tennant finished with the following challenge: “A good hockey player plays to where the puck is. A great hockey player plays to where the puck is going to be.” Dr. Tennant stated that “the big question was how do we know where the hockey puck is going to be? The Spirit will blow you to where the hockey puck is going to be. The hockey puck is on the move. Let’s get into our coracles and go!”

TUESDAY, MAY 24 – MISSIONS LUNCHEON

The Missions Partnership luncheon was held at Christian Life Center, in Dayton, OH. Assistant Superintendent Palmer welcomed those in attendance and introduced Network Youth Director, Nate Ortiz who opened with a time of prayer.

Rev. Palmer introduced the Executive Director of the Assemblies of God World Missions, Rev. Greg Mundis. Rev. Mundis talked of partnership importance and stated that the Assemblies of God now has other countries that are preparing and sending out their own missionaries.

Children’s Ministries Director, Stacy Petty recognized the Ohio churches that invested most generously in Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge (BGMC) in 2015. Ohio Women’s Ministries Director, Brigette Wootton, recognized the top LIFE offering churches for 2015. Rev. Palmer introduced Rev. Benny Ferguson, Director of Development Bible Alliance, who represented Missionary Jeff Dove. Rev. Ferguson recognized the top LFTL churches for 2015.

Rev. Palmer announced the top AG total giving for 2015: 3rd place – Dublin Radiant Life Church (\$199,862); 2nd place – Maumee Calvary Church (\$335,505); and in 1st place – Fairfield Tri County (\$1,362,258). Rev. Palmer noted that top per capital giving for 2015 included: 3rd place – Gallipolis Lighthouse (\$1,014); 2nd place – Sidney Cornerstone (\$1,363); and 1st place – Fairfield Tri County (\$2,595).

Rev. Palmer and Nate Ortiz discussed the Speed the Light (STL) missionary fund and shared a network goal of \$400,000 to catch up on the need.

Rev. Palmer introduced Heath Adamson, National Youth Director. Rev. Adamson mentioned that this is the last year of the three year AG campaign of “The Human Right”. The scripture text used for Adamson’s message was Matthew 6:21, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” He stated that Speed the Light has three functions: essential transportation, creative communication, and compassionate demonstration. Rev. Adamson stated that the greatest injustice is for someone not to hear the gospel and included his personal testimony of how God delivered him at a church youth group meeting.

Rev. John Wootton, Network Superintendent, concluded the luncheon by giving special thanks to Rev. Jim Palmer and Nate Ortiz and closed with prayer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 24 – MEMORIAL/COMMUNION SERVICE

The memorial service was opened by Rev. Palmer, honoring those who had gone to be with the Lord. Those in memorial were Rev. Homer Bennett, Rev. Michael Collingsworth, Rev. Eliseo Frano, Rev. Jim Gray, Rev. Joan Heisler, Rev. Cecil Stapleton, Rev. Dale Ware, and Rev. Kanith “Rocky” Stone.

Rev. Palmer introduced the son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Dale Ware, Gary and Lisa, and gave a brief biography of Rev. Ware’s life. Rev. Jim then led the body in prayer for the families of those who went home to be with the Lord.

The memorial service concluded with Rev. Wootton and Rev. Palmer sharing personal communion with the Ware family and also encouraged those in the body to have a personal time of communion with friends in the lobby, hallway, and sanctuary or throughout the church.

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 19 – MISSION SERVICE WITH HEATH ADAMSON

Rev. Palmer opened the service with prayer and a video presentation of greetings from the Ohio missionaries around the world. The Christian Life Center worship team led in worship. Rev. Palmer encouraged independent praise of God’s greatness and invited Rev. Wootton to the platform. Prayer was shared with the Hembrees, new missionaries with Royal Rangers International. Rev. Wootton shared the vision of Missions Partnership in Ohio and thanked Rev. Palmer for his passion in service to championing missions and missionaries.

Rev. Palmer noted that the 1:8 Summit would take place at Radiant Life Church in Dublin, OH. Rev. Palmer stated that over \$100,000 was raised for the 2015 Live Dead Mali project and celebrated the project’s completion with the congregation. Rev. Ortiz presented the 2016 project for Speed the Light (STL) in the amount of \$400,000 goal. Rev. Ortiz introduced Youth Pastor Andrew King and shared his story as an example of a youth ministry generously giving to STL.

Rev. Palmer introduced Rev. Mundis and Rev Mundis shared stories about the impact of STL in the countries of Bosnia, Kosovo, and Australia

National Youth Director Heath Adamson preached from Acts 3:1-10 with the title “Who Switched your Lid?” Rev. Adamson’s message centered on the rhetorical question, “Are we building something that the designer never thought should be put together?” Rev. Adamson noted that Peter grabbed the lame man’s hand and he preached the gospel in physical, emotional and spiritual way. Rev. Adamson stated that salvation is a door, but the kingdom is very big, and that not just about forgiveness, walking, leaping, and praising God.

Rev. Adamson shared a STL challenge to equip our missionaries and make sure they are capable of a Acts chapter 3 experience. Adamson stated that it must be a student initiated and adult facilitated challenge. Rev. Adamson closed his message by inviting those present to bring their STL cards to the altar and pray.

The service concluded in prayer.

**MINUTES OF THE 71ST OHIO MINISTRY NETWORK
NETWORK CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSIONS
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER AG, DAYTON, OHIO
MAY 22-25, 2016**

Monday Morning Session, May 23, 2016

Superintendent John Wootton called the first business session of the 71st Network Conference to order at 8:35 a.m. and asked for Rev. Brent Heishman to pray for the needs and hopes of the Ohio Ministry Network. In his introductory remarks Rev. Wootton thanked host Rev. Stan Tharp and their team for Christian Life Center’s hospitality. Rev. Wootton explained the order of business, the breakout sessions, the ministry taking place in the evenings each day of Network Conference, and noting the value of utilizing Roberts Rules of Order to guide the business deliberations of the Conference. He recognized special guests and stated that at each event we want to give updates, but we have one event a year to do business, be efficient, and also engage in a healthy discussion.

Rev. Wootton noted that the Network Conference deliberative body is the highest decision-making entity in the governance structure of the Ohio Ministry Network, stating that we have committees including parliamentary and tellers committees that can be helpful for those that are new to the process. He also explained the various bodies that the network empowers to do the daily and monthly business of the network; lastly, Rev. Wootton noted the two modes of voting including paper and electronic voting.

Rev. Stan Tharp welcomed the various guests and invited them to the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) being hosted at Christian Life Center, August 11-12, 2016.

Roster Report

Ayodele J. Okuwobi, chairman of the Roster Committee, read the roster report as follows:

Ordained Ministers	100
Licensed Ministers	51
Certified Ministers	11
Provisional Certified Ministers	0
Delegates	26
Total Voting Constituency	188
Guests	50
Total Registered	238

The roster report was adopted as presented and a motion prevailed to adopt the roster report.

Recognition of Network Conference Committees

Superintendent Wootton recognized with appreciation the following committees:

Parliamentary Committee

David L. Bittinger, chairman; Jonathan P. Buerger.

Resolutions Committee

David B. Pafford, chairman; Douglas L. Cooper; Heather M. Erickson.

Roster Committee

Ayodele J. Okuwobi, chairman.

Tellers Committee

John D. Musgrave, chairman; Mark A. Andreasen; Nathan A. Bacorn; David W. Burdick; Nicole L. Cooper; Vince E. Cooper; Charles F. Davis; Timothy C. Foley; Darren P. Gambrell; Lloyd N. Hill; Rick V. Mason; Scott A. McGillis; Timothy D. McGinnis; Fred J. Rowe; William E. Savage; Charles A. Winter; Shannon D. Wooten; Matthew P. Wright.

Network Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Wootton invited Assistant Superintendent Jim Palmer to assume chairmanship of the meeting. Rev. Palmer called for the report of the Superintendent. Rev. Wootton presented the superintendent’s report, sharing highlights from the printed copy in the Conference notebook.

Rev. Wootton invited pastors Shannon Wooten and Greg Ford to the platform to share their stories, talk about church trends, and celebrate the successful mergers of both One Church AG and NewSpring AG, who both took two congregations and combined them becoming larger congregations, respectively in 2015. Rev. Wooten and Rev. Ford answered a few questions in regards to the mergers. Rev. Ford publically thanked two key people in the One Church AG merger, Rev. Michael Smith, former lead pastor of Pathway Church AG, and Rev. Wootton. Rev. Wootton shared that Rev. Smith has accepted a position as the Assimilations Pastor at Calvary Church in Naperville, IL. Rev. Wootton thanked the Network Resource Center team and his family for their incredible support.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the network superintendent.

Assistant Superintendent & Finance Director Report

Rev. Wootton called for the report of the Assistant Superintendent. Rev. Palmer presented the Assistant Superintendent’s report and presented the 2015 Consolidated Financial Report (prepared by Villani, Becker & Larsen, S.C., Certified Public Accountants). Rev. Palmer noted the financial challenges and the opportunities facing the network and its churches, which included the opportunities to invest in the Tanzania Bible College as well as in Emerge Counseling Services. Rev. Palmer noted that out of the several meetings that the Network Presbytery had they determined to fast and pray and invest \$100,000 in these two entities. Rev. Palmer stated that we had a breakthrough with refinancing our mortgage and also a quick sale of a property, enabling us to eliminate some of the debts and to end the 2015 year with a \$49,018 deficit, but that Heartland Conference Retreat Center (HCRC) ended the year in the black, in excess of the deficit of \$49,018. He also noted that the auditor had an unqualified option and that the financial statements conformed to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Rev. Palmer noted that the networks assets continue to increase in value, noting that the two biggest assets being NRC building and the HCRC in value of \$4,860,763 and \$12,875,969. He also noted several line items in the Financial Summary of the Corporation for both HCRC and the Ohio Ministry Network including the \$1,769,108 in income from minister’s tithes, dues and offerings. Rev. Palmer noted that \$1,055,070 was for goods and services and the expense of \$321,873 was professional fees related to legal expenses. Rev. Palmer concluded that the total cash flow for the 2015 OMN operations was a loss of \$49,018 and that the 2015 financial summary of HCRC was \$160,698 for a total combined operations of \$111,080 for the Ohio Ministry Network. Concluding the Assistant Superintendents report on finance partnership, Rev Palmer thanked Finance Officer Shelby Pratt and highlighted the following finance committee members: Jim Lupica, Greg Shapiro, Phil Weaver, and Jim Wootton. Jim moved the report of the consolidated financial statement.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Network Assistant Superintendent, Finance Director’s report, and the 2015 Consolidated Financial Report, including the Independent Accountant’s Review Report, of the Ohio Ministry Network and Heartland Conference Retreat Center.

Questions were shared and Rev. Palmer gave the amount of the building mortgage and Rev. Wootton spoke to the question in regards to the Middletown property that had a lawsuit.

Missions Director Report

Rev. Palmer presented the Missions Director report and shared the missions giving from our churches. Rev. Palmer referenced the Ohio missionaries and those on itineration. Rev. Palmer shared the transitions of the missionary family, noting that the Fagerlands had recently retired. Rev. Palmer shared the mission’s objective for 2016, to reach a goal of \$400,000 to completely fund our STL account.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the missions director.

Network Secretary & Leader Development’s Report

Network Secretary and Leader Development Director David Pafford thanked the different teams that are involved in making Leader Development and the credential process a success. Rev. Pafford presented the Network Secretary’s report.

An exhortation was made from a pastor to encourage the body, regarding the number per capita salvations and Holy Spirit baptisms at each church, noting that these were the primary reasons for our existence as a movement.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the network secretary & leader development director.

Election of Network Superintendent—Nominating Ballot

Rev. Wootton read from the network’s bylaws regarding the qualifications pertaining to the election of the network superintendent, explained the process for the text voting process outlined in the voters’ guide for Superintendent and General Presbyter.

Text Voting Instructions

Rev. Palmer assumed the chairmanship of the meeting. Finance Director Shelby Pratt provided guidelines for electronic voting (text based or web based) and announced that paper ballots would be available for those who needed them.

Heartland Conference & Retreat Center Report

A video presentation of the new ropes and zip line courses was shared. Director Sue Nigh presented the report of HCRC, noting the continued spiritual, numerical and financial growth including 5 years in the black, highlighting the new Wi-Fi and Tempur-Pedic mattresses.

Encouragements and testimonials were shared in regards to Heartland Conference & Retreat Center. A prayer request was shared in regards to a HCRC staff, Angie Swanson, who is battling cancer. Prayer was shared over Angie and the elections.

A motion prevailed to appreciate the report of Heartland Conference Retreat Center with several pastors expressing thanks for Heartland’s ministry.

Roster Report

Ayodele J. Okuwobi, chairman of the Roster Committee, read the roster report as follows:

Ordained Ministers	121
Licensed Ministers	58
Certified Ministers	17
Provisional Certified Ministers	0
Delegates	27
Total Voting Constituency	223
Guests	58
Total Registered	281

A motion prevailed to adopt the roster report as presented.

The nominating ballot was cast for the office of network superintendent.

Rev. Wootton gave an update of the days schedule and recognized Former Superintendent Bob Crabtree and his wife, Roberta.

Rev. Palmer closed the ballot for the office of network superintendent and returned the chairmanship to the superintendent.

Four Drivers Church Multiplication Award

Rev. Wootton explained each of the four drivers of the Ohio Ministry Network: missions partnership, church health, church multiplication and leader development; each of these drivers have an award to present.

Church Multiplication Director Gary Fowler gave an introduction and presented his Four Drivers Award to Rev. Josh Plaisance. A video presentation was shared for the 2016 Church Planting project; Rev. Plaisance requested \$30,000 to be raised for church planting and noted that he would be participating in the Iron Man half-marathon to help raise money for this project. Rev. Plaisance shared testimonials and his journey for preparing for the Iron Man half-marathon.

Report of the Nominating Ballot for Network Superintendent

Rev. Wootton yielded the chair to Assistant Superintendent Jim Palmer. Teller Committee Chairman John Musgrave reported that John R. Wootton received 82% of the votes on the nominating ballot for network superintendent.

The results of the nominating ballot for the office of network superintendent were announced as follows: Philip L. Anderson (1); Donna L. Barrett (1); Christopher N. Beard (2); David A. Bennett (2); David L. Bittinger (1); Larry D. Fletcher (1); Chad S. Gilligan (1); David L. Gross (3); Michael P. Hadinger (1); John R. Hembree (2); Jeremiah S. Hembree (1); Rex E. King (1); Roger A. Larrison (1); Scott A. McGillis (3); John D. Musgrave (2); Gregory S. Owens (1); James A. Palmer (5); Randy Rice (1); Konan K. Stephens (1); Teresa M. Triplett (1); Joseph J. Weser (1); John R. Wootton (149).

Having noted that John R. Wootton received in excess of the two-thirds vote required, the chair declared John R. Wootton was elected as network superintendent on the nominating ballot. Rev. Wootton accepted the election with appreciation and returned to the chair.

The morning business session was recessed in prayer by Rev. Crabtree at 11:00 a.m.

Monday Afternoon Session, May 23, 2016

Rev. Wootton called the afternoon business session to order at 3:15 p.m.

Rev. Palmer requested the Ohio World and U.S. missionaries to come forward and appreciation was shared. Each missionary introduced themselves and their ministry.

Election of General Presbyter—Nominating Ballot

Rev. Wootton read the network’s constitution and bylaws regarding the qualifications for the office of general presbyter. Rev. Pratt gave instructions for the electronic and paper ballots. The nominating ballot was cast for the election of general presbyter.

Branch Campus Partnership – Southeastern University

Rev. Pafford gave an explanation and history of the process of partnering with an Assemblies of God University. Rev. Pafford explained that the Network Presbytery determined a partner school must have the expertise, mission, vision, philosophy and values most closely align with the Ohio Ministry Network. After exploring four Assemblies of God Universities: Evangel University, Southeastern University Southwestern University, and University of Valley Forge; the school that was chosen was Southeastern University. Rev. Pafford shared that the tuition structure would be competitive with public universities in Ohio. Southeastern University would provide expertise in enrollment, accreditation, compliance with education, and coaching. Along with tens of thousands of dollars in marking, school systems, and support as we begin to launch.

Video presentation of the partnership between the Ohio Ministry Network and Southeastern University was shared.

Rev. Wootton introduced and welcomed Southeastern University’s President, Kent Ingle, and his team. President Ingle presented Southeastern’s vision and the Lord’s mission for partnering with students and the local church. President Ingle stated that Southeastern has created ways to give access to education for those who are not able to travel to the main campus. President Ingle believes this will be a historical partnership and will pave the way for future partnerships with districts around the nation. President Ingle invited his team to the stage for a Q&A time: Roy Rowland, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Chris Owen, Vice President for Student Development; Justin Lathrop, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships.

Rev. Wootton and Rev. Pafford shared a Q&A time with the Southeastern University’s panel in regards to degrees, values, partnership, student culture, educational format, and what the future partnership with SEU would look like. President Ingle challenged the ministers of Ohio to encourage their students to attend an AG college/university, knowledge, wisdom and experience is necessary to be the best in the field God has called your student to.

President Ingle presented a four year tuition free scholarship to a student who attends a church who has a representative here at the 2016 Network Conference. Rev. Wootton thanked and appreciation was shared to the Southeastern University’s team as well as the AG branch campus team: Dave Pafford, Jim Palmer, and Dave Welle.

Report of the Nominating Ballot for General Presbyter

The results of the nominating ballot for the office of general presbyter were announced as follows: Bismark O. Akomeah (2); James D. Allen (1); Philip L. Anderson (3); Donna L. Barrett (60); Thomas P. Baxter (2); Christopher N. Beard (5); David A. Bennett (1); David L. Bittinger (2); Bruce D. Craig (1); Kevin L. Crow (5); Charles F. Davis (1); Randy J. Davis (2); Danny A. Deem (3); Larry D. Fletcher (4); Gregory A. Ford (3); Chad S. Gilligan (1); Gary A. Gray (2); David L. Gross (43); Charles E. Hedges (1); Daniel R. Holbrook (4); Daniel B. Lund (1); Timothy D. McGinnis (1); William L. McGinnis (1); Gareld G. Menke (1); Matthew J.R. Miller (1); John D. Musgrave (1); Harry E. Peterson (1); Jeffrey M. Phail (3); Joshua M. Plaisance (2); Lance J. Porubsky (1); Randy D. Rice (1); Joseph B. Serbin (1); Konan K. Stephens (5); Stanley J. Tharp (3); David K. Welle (1); Josh S. Willaford (4); John R. Wootton (1); Albert Yanno; Jr. (1).

There was no election on the nominating ballot for the office of general presbyter.

The first elective ballot was cast for the office of general presbyter.

Roster Report

Ayodele J. Okuwobi, chairman of the Roster Committee, read the roster report as follows:

Ordained Ministers	129
Licensed Ministers	63
Certified Ministers	18
Provisional Certified Ministers	0
Delegates	27
Total Voting Constituency	237
Guests	62
Total Registered	299

A motion prevailed to adopt the roster report as presented.

A motion to recess prevailed. The afternoon business session recessed at 4:36 p.m. and Missionary David Bennett closed in prayer.

Tuesday Morning Session, May 24, 2016

The business session reconvened at 8:32 a.m. with Rev. Jan Beard opening in prayer.

A video presentation was shared in regards to the Church planting project.

Roster Report

Ayodele J. Okuwobi, chairman of the Roster Committee, read the roster report as follows:

Ordained Ministers	136
Licensed Ministers	63
Certified Ministers	19
Provisional Certified Ministers	0
Delegates	31
Total Voting Constituency	249
Guests	66
Total Registered	315

A motion prevailed to adopt the roster report as presented.

First Elective Ballot for General Presbyter

Results of the first elective ballot for the office of general presbyter were announced, as follows: Philip L. Anderson (5), Donna L. Barrett (55), Christopher N. Beard (21), Kevin L. Crow (10), Danny A. Deem (4), Larry D. Fletcher (9), Gregory A. Ford (7), David L. Gross (44), Daniel R. Holbrook (7), Jeffrey M. Phail (6), Konan K. Stephens (12), Stanley J. Tharp (6), Josh S. Willaforde (5).

There was no election on the first elective ballot for the office of general presbyter.

The second elective ballot was cast for the office of general presbyter, with the following names of those receiving the six highest numbers of votes on the first elective ballot considered: Donna L. Barrett, Christopher N. Beard, Kevin L. Crow, David L. Gross, and Konan K. Stephens.

Four Drivers Missions Partnership Award

Rev. Palmer gave an introduction and presented his Four Driver award to the Executive Director of the Assemblies of God World Missions, Gregory Mundis. Dr. Mundis shared his appreciation with the Network.

Ohio School of Ministry Dean

Rev. Pafford introduced and welcomed Rev. Derek Boivin as the new Dean of the Ohio School of Ministry. Rev. Boivin shared a snapshot of future education through the Ohio School of Ministry.

Rev. Wootton reiterated the partnership with Southeastern University and reminding the constituents of the scholarship offered to a student for the Fall 2017 school year.

Second Elective Ballot for General Presbyter

Results of the second elective ballot for the office of general presbyter were announced, as follows:

Donna L. Barrett	57
Christopher N. Beard	21
Kevin L. Crow	10
David L. Gross	49
Konan K. Stephens	19
Total Votes Cast	156

There was no election on the second elective ballot for the office of general presbyter.

The third elective ballot for the office of general presbyter was cast with the following names of those receiving the three highest numbers of votes on the second elective ballot being considered: Donna L. Barrett, Christopher N. Beard, and David L. Gross.

A video presentation regarding Fire Bibles was shared.

A Heartland Conference Retreat Center gift package was presented to Rev. Rick Scheer.

Resolution 1

David B. Pafford, member of the Resolutions Committee, proposed a motion to read both the “whereas” statements and proposed text for the resolutions, excluding the present text, the motion carried.

Rev. Pafford read Resolution 1, *Executive Officer Term Limits (Constitution)*, sponsored by Rev. Shane D. Hart, and moved its adoption.

Rev. Hart provided the rationale and clarification for the resolution, stating it offered more opportunities for ethnic and gender inclusion. A discussion ensued.

The motion failed for the adoption of Resolution 1 (Page 14-15).

A motion prevailed to limit discussion for each speaker to 5 minutes per comment on each piece of legislation.

Third Elective Ballot for General Presbyter

Results of the third elective ballot for the office of general presbyter were announced, as follows:

Donna L. Barrett	85
Christopher N. Beard	22
David L. Gross	66
Total Votes Cast	175

There was no election on the third elective ballot for the office of general presbyter.

The fourth elective ballot for the office of general presbyter was cast with the following names of those receiving the two highest numbers of votes on the third elective ballot being considered: Donna L. Barrett and David L. Gross.

Resolution 2

Douglas L. Cooper, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 2, *Presbyter Term Limits (Constitution)*, sponsored by Rev. Shane Hart, and moved its adoption. A vigorous discussion ensued related the value of term limited on the one hand and the continuity of leadership on the other hand.

An amendment was proposed to delete the section stating “A nonresident executive presbyter serving four (4) consecutive elected terms shall not be eligible to serve on the Executive Presbytery for at least one term” from the resolution.

The amendment proposed was withdrawn.

A motion prevailed to refer the resolution to the Resolutions Committee to recraft it with new language.

A motion prevailed to divide Resolution 2 into Resolution 2 for Nonresident Executive Presbyter and Resolution 8 for Area Presbyter and Assistant Presbyter.

Fourth Elective Ballot for General Presbyter

Results of the fourth elective ballot for the office of general presbyter were announced, as follows:

Donna L. Barrett	130
David L. Gross	62
Total Votes Cast	192

Having noted Donna L. Barrett received in excess of the two-thirds voted required, the chair declared Donna L. Barrett elected as the general presbyter on the third elective ballot. Donna L. Barrett accepted the election with appreciation.

Election of Nonresident Executive Presbyters

Rev. Wootton read the network’s constitution and bylaws regarding the qualifications for the office of executive presbyter.

Election of the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One

Ministers to be considered for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter - Region One, as designated by the Network Presbytery, were listed as follows: Daniel B. Lund, David K. Welle, and James F. Wilkes.

Election of the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two

Ministers to be considered for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter - Region Two, as designated by the Network Presbytery, were listed as follows: Larry D. Fletcher, Lance J. Porubsky, and Josh S. Willaford.

Election of the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three

Ministers to be considered for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter - Region Three, as designated by the Network Presbytery, were listed as follows: Christopher N. Beard, Randy J. Davis, and Daniel R. Holbrook.

Election of the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four

Ministers to be considered for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter - Region Four, as designated by the Network Presbytery, were listed as follows: Bismark O. Akomeah, Chad S. Gilligan, and Konan K. Stephens.

Revised Resolution 2

A motion prevailed to verbally approve the new resolutions: Revised Resolution 2 & Resolution 8.

A motion prevailed to only read the proposed text and not read the “whereas” statements.

David B. Pafford, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 2, *Network Executive Presbyter Term Limits (Constitution)*, sponsored by Rev. Shane Hart, and moved its adoption.

The motion failed to adopt the revised Resolution 2, by a two-thirds majority vote.

A motion prevailed to approve reading and adopting resolutions in various order.

Resolution 8

A motion prevailed to only read the proposed text and not read the “whereas” statements.

David B. Pafford, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 2, *Area Officer Term Limits (Constitution)*, sponsored by Rev. Shane Hart, and moved its adoption.

A motion failed to move the question by secret ballot.

A motion failed to adopt Resolution 8, by a two-thirds majority vote.

Rev. Wootton explained some of the initiatives coming for the 2017 year, including suggested changes the EGIL committee will make in the format of resolutions.

First Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One

Results of the first elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One were as follows: Daniel B. Lund (55), David K. Welle (96), and James F. Wilkes (35).

There was no election on the first elective ballot.

The second elective ballot was cast for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One position, with the following names of those receiving the five highest numbers of votes on the first elective ballot being considered: Daniel B. Lund and David K. Welle.

First Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two

Results of the first elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two were as follows: Larry D. Fletcher (101), Lance J. Porubsky (14), and Josh S. Willaford (76).

There was no election on the first elective ballot.

The second elective ballot was cast for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two position, with the following names of those receiving the five highest numbers of votes on the first elective ballot being considered: Larry D. Fletcher and Josh S. Willaford.

First Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three

Results of the first elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three were as follows: Christopher N. Beard (109), Randy J. Davis (54), and Daniel R. Holbrook (27).

There was no election on the first elective ballot.

The second elective ballot was cast for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three position, with the following names of those receiving the five highest numbers of votes on the first elective ballot being considered: Christopher N. Beard and Randy J. Davis.

First Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four

Results of the first elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four were as follows: Bismark O. Akomeah (51), Chad S. Gilligan (56), and Konan K. Stephens (82).

There was no election on the first elective ballot.

The second elective ballot was cast for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four position, with the following names of those receiving the five highest numbers of votes on the first elective ballot being considered: Chad S. Gilligan and Konan K. Stephens.

Rev. Wootton provided clarification on the bylaws in regards to the nominees for the nonresident executive presbyter. The members of the nominating committee are: Superintendent, chairman; one area presbyter; three ordained ministers. Conversation ensued and appreciation was given for the questions and discussion that was shared.

A video presentation regarding church planting was shared.

The morning business session recessed at 11:47 a.m.

Tuesday Afternoon Session, May 24, 2016

The business session reconvened at 2:01 p.m. with Rev. Wootton inviting delegates to submit prayer requests for their lives and ministries. A time of corporate intercession followed.

Roster Report

Ayodele J. Okuwobi, chairman of the Roster Committee, read the roster report as follows:

Ordained Ministers	138
Licensed Ministers	63
Certified Ministers	19
Provisional Certified Ministers	0
Delegates	31
Total Voting Constituency	251
Guests	68
Total Registered	319

A motion prevailed to adopt the roster report as presented and a motion prevailed to close the roster.

Second Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One

Results of the second elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One were announced, as follows:

Daniel B. Lund	52
David K. Welle	139
Total Votes Cast	191

Having noted that David K. Welle received in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared David K. Welle the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region One on the second elective ballot.

Second Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three

Results of the second elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three were announced, as follows:

Christopher N. Beard	126
Randy J. Davis	56
Total Votes Cast	182

Having noted that Christopher N. Beard received in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared Christopher N. Beard the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Three on the second elective ballot.

A Minister’s Retreat gift certificate was presented to Rev. Harry Pishcura.

Second Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two

Results of the second elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two were announced, as follows:

Larry D. Fletcher	127
Josh S. Willaford	70
Total Votes Cast	197

There was no election on the second elective ballot.

The third elective ballot was cast for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two position, with the following names of those receiving the two highest numbers of votes on the second elective ballot being considered: Larry D. Fletcher and Josh S. Willaford.

Second Elective Ballot Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four

Results of the second elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four were announced, as follows:

Chad S. Gilligan	80
Konan K. Stephens	117
Total Votes Cast	197

There was no election on the second elective ballot.

The third elective ballot was cast for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four position, with the following names of those receiving the two highest numbers of votes on the second elective ballot being considered: Chad S. Gilligan and Konan K. Stephens.

Resolution 3

Heather M. Erickson, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 3, *Changing the Voting Constituency of the Delegacy (Bylaws)*, and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3.

Four Drivers Leader Development Award

Rev. Pafford gave an introduction and presented his Four Driver award to Leader Development Task Force member, specializing in small groups, Tiffany Crosby.

Resolution 4

Douglas L. Cooper, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 4, *Nomination to General Council Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery (Bylaws)*, and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4.

Rev. Wootton provided clarification on the process of submitting a resolution to the General Council Resolutions Committee.

Third Elective Ballot Nominee for Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two

Results of the third elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two were announced, as follows:

Larry D. Fletcher	89
Josh S. Willaford	32
Total Votes Cast	121

Having noted that Larry D. Fletcher received in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared Larry D. Fletcher the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Two on the third elective ballot.

Third Elective Ballot Nominee for Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four

Results of the third elective ballot for the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four were announced, as follows:

Chad S. Gilligan	45
Konan K. Stephens	90
Total Votes Cast	135

Having noted that Konan K. Stephens received in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared Konan K. Stephens the Nominee for the Nonresident Executive Presbyter – Region Four on the third elective ballot.

The newly elected general presbyter and nonresident executive presbyters were presented and they expressed appreciation to the constituents.

Rev. Wootton announced that the Network Presbytery approved an eight-week sabbatical upon re-election as Superintendent during the summer and provided details of the sabbatical.

2015 Heart for Ohio Giving Recognition

Rev. Wootton expressed appreciation to the top three contributing churches for their Heart for Ohio giving in 2015 and presented awards to their pastors. The following churches were recognized:

TOTAL GIVING

1st, Lima First AG, \$31,200; 2nd, Maumee Calvary Church AG, \$30,850; 3rd, Dayton Christian Life Center, \$28,600

PER CAPITA GIVING

1st, Columbia Station ClearView Church, \$174.05; 2nd, Coshocton The Crossroads AG, \$105.42; 3rd, Alliance Marlboro AG, \$99.17

Resolution 5

Douglas L. Cooper, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 5, *Nonresident Executive Presbyters Balloted by Region (GC Bylaws)*, and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 5.

A motion prevailed to pursue other sponsors for Resolution 5.

Resolution 6

David. B. Pafford, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 6, *Ohio Church Multiplication Giving (Bylaws)*, and moved its adoption.

A motion was presented to amend Resolution 6 to give “1% in monthly offerings to either church multiplication or church revitalization”.

A motion prevailed to withdraw the proposed amendment.

Superintendent Wootton invited Assistant Superintendent Palmer to assume chairmanship of the meeting. Rev. Wootton spoke on behalf of the resolution. Superintendent Wootton reassumed chairmanship of the meeting.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 6.

The standing vote was 104 for the resolution 49 against adopting the resolution, and Rev. Wootton noted that the presbytery would discuss the implementation and rollout of the recommended and adopted bylaw change.

Four Drivers Church Health Award

Church Development Director John Musgrave gave an introduction and presented his Four Driver award to Rev. Harry Peterson at Sidney Cornerstone AG and CornerstonePiqua.

A video regarding Special Touch Ministries was presented.

Gift certificates were presented for: Pastors’ Wives Retreat, Time Apart Women’s Conference, Kid’s Camp, Reach Conference, Church Life Cohort, Forum, Senior Saints Retreat, and Chi Alpha Breakaway.

Resolution 7 – Courtesy Resolution

Douglas L. Cooper, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 7, *Courtesy Resolution*, and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7.

A BGMC give away was presented to Lisa Heishman.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn prevailed at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

David B. Pafford, M.A., MBA
Network Secretary

**71st OHIO NETWORK CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION NO. 1**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER TERM LIMITS (CONSTITUTION)

1 WHEREAS, At recent Network Conferences and General Councils, much attention has
2 been given to the need for greater gender, generational, and ethnic
3 diversity; and
4
5 WHEREAS, Attempts have been made, for a more balanced representation at
6 national and local levels using quotas and percentage additions to various
7 leadership bodies; and
8
9 WHEREAS, One of the reasons for the lack of diversity and increasing average age of
10 these bodies is the length that an individual remains in position before
11 another, potentially younger, individual is able to move into that
12 position; and
13
14 WHEREAS, The possibility of disconnecting with the general constituency exists
15 when officers serve for an extended period of time; and
16
17 WHEREAS, Other potential positional misuses can arise when a person remains in a
18 position of oversight and/or authority for too long are well documented
19 throughout our society; and
20
21 WHEREAS, The network executive officers are in positions of great influence on both
22 the network and national levels; and
23
24 WHEREAS, The network executive officers in their various roles serve our network in
25 the capacity of executive directors rather than that of pastors, though
26 they may at times perform the duties and functions of a pastor, which
27 does not create an inconsistency with longevity of pastors serving in the
28 local church; and
29
30 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has always been a “grass roots” movement as a
31 cooperative fellowship, thus making it proper to increase opportunity for
32 more individuals to serve, potentially allowing for a more natural balance
33 across generational, gender, and ethnic realities; and
34
35 WHEREAS, The electoral system offers a mechanism for “passing the torch” and still
36 allowing those with experience to continue in influence and voice; and
37
38 WHEREAS, Having a term limit creates a sense of urgency to the time that is served
39 to put forth energy and effort into accomplishing the work at hand; and
40
41 WHEREAS, The idea of term limits does not exclude an ordained minister from being
42 eligible again after an additional 4 year term has expired where they
43 have not served; therefore, be it
44
45 RESOLVED, That the Ohio District Council Constitution, Article X., Officers, Section
46 1. Executive Officers, paragraph b., be amended as follows:
47

<u>PRESENT TEXT</u>	<u>PROPOSED TEXT</u>
CONSTITUTION	CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE X. OFFICERS	ARTICLE X. OFFICERS
Section 1. Executive Officers	Section 1. Executive Officers
a. No changes.	a. No changes.

<p>b. The terms of office for the network superintendent and the assistant network superintendent shall begin 60 days after the date of election, unless otherwise authorized by the Network Executive Presbytery, and shall continue for four (4) years. The term of office for the nonresident general presbyter shall be two (2) years.</p>	<p>b. The terms of office for the network superintendent and the assistant network superintendent shall begin 60 days after the date of election, unless otherwise authorized by the Network Executive Presbytery, and shall continue for four (4) years. The term of office for the nonresident general presbyter shall be two (2) years. <u>A network superintendent, assistant superintendent, or nonresident general presbyter serving (3) consecutive terms shall not be eligible to serve in that same role for at least one term.</u></p>
<p>c. No changes.</p>	<p>c. No changes.</p>
<p>RESOLVED, That these term limits go into effect at the end of the current term for the superintendent, assistant superintendent and non-resident general presbyter and that their preceding terms not be considered in the term limit calculation.</p>	

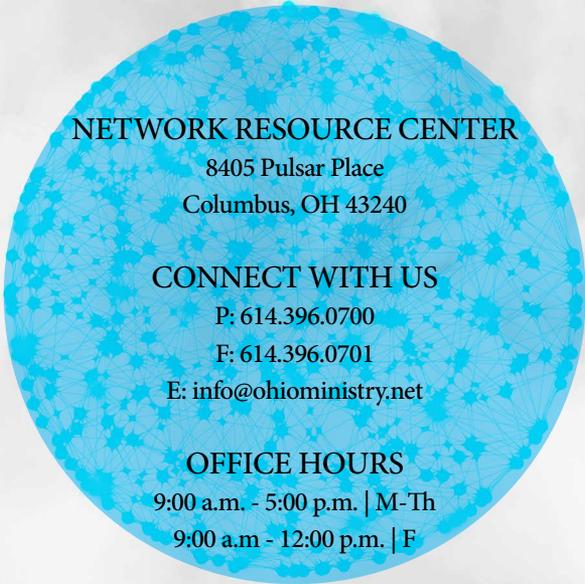
Respectfully Submitted: Shane Hart, Lead Pastor

**71st OHIO NETWORK CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION NO. 2**

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER TERM LIMITS (CONSTITUTION)

1 WHEREAS, At recent Network Conferences and General Councils, much attention has 1
 2 been given to the need for greater gender, generational, and ethnic 2
 3 diversity; and 3
 4 4
 5 WHEREAS, Attempts have been made, for a more balanced representation at 5
 6 national and local levels using quotas and percentage additions to various 6
 7 leadership bodies; and 7
 8 8
 9 WHEREAS, One of the reasons for the lack of diversity and increasing average age of 9
 10 these bodies is the length that an individual remains in position before 10
 11 another, potentially younger, individual is able to move into that 11
 12 position; and 12
 13 13
 14 WHEREAS, The possibility of disconnecting with the general constituency exists 14
 15 when officers serve for an extended period of time; and 15
 16 16
 17 WHEREAS, Other potential positional misuses can arise when a person remains in a 17
 18 position of oversight and/or authority for too long are well documented 18
 19 throughout our society; and 19
 20 20
 21 WHEREAS, The network executive officers are in positions of great influence on both 21
 22 the network and national levels; and 22
 23 23
 24 WHEREAS, The network executive officers in their various roles serve our network in 24
 25 the capacity of executive directors rather than that of pastors, though 25
 26 they may at times perform the duties and functions of a pastor, which 26
 27 does not create an inconsistency with longevity of pastors serving in the 27
 28 local church; and 28
 29 29
 30 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has always been a “grass roots” movement as a 30
 31 cooperative fellowship, thus making it proper to increase opportunity for 31
 32 more individuals to serve, potentially allowing for a more natural balance 32
 33 across generational, gender, and ethnic realities; and 33
 34 34
 35 WHEREAS, The electoral system offers a mechanism for “passing the torch” and still 35
 36 allowing those with experience to continue in influence and voice; and 36
 37 37
 38 WHEREAS, Having a term limit creates a sense of urgency to the time that is served 38
 39 to put forth energy and effort into accomplishing the work at hand; and 39
 40 40
 41 WHEREAS, The idea of term limits does not exclude an ordained minister from being 41
 42 eligible again after an additional 4 year term has expired where they 42
 43 have not served; therefore, be it 43
 44 44
 45 RESOLVED, That the Ohio District Council Constitution, Article X., Officers, Section 45
 46 2. Network Executive Presbytery, paragraph b., be amended as follows: 46
 47 47

<u>PRESENT TEXT</u>	<u>PROPOSED TEXT</u>
CONSTITUTION	CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE X. OFFICERS	ARTICLE X. OFFICERS
Section 2. Network Executive Presbytery	Section 2. Network Executive Presbytery
a. No changes.	a. No changes.



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