



Northlake

Assembly of God

Constitution & Bylaws



of Northlake Assembly of God

2632 Sunset Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28216



ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Proposed January 24, 2021

The Constitution of Northlake Assembly of God

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Assembly shall be “Northlake Assembly of God”, of the city of Charlotte, State of North Carolina.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives and purposes of Northlake Assembly of God are:

Section 1. To Govern

This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures and of the North Carolina District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a Lead Pastor, the election of the church board, the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

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Section 2. To Acquire and Dispose

In connection therewith or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise either directly or as a trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by applicable nonprofit corporation law of North Carolina; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

Section 3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to

provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony, and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

Section 4. To Cooperate

This assembly shall cooperate with the District Council and the General Council to extend the work and kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program as agreed upon. It shall participate in District Council and General Council sessions through its chosen delegates and share in the support of the ministries of these bodies.

Section 5. To Recognize

This assembly shall recognize that the District Council and the General Council have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed necessary. See Article IX of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with the assemblies of like precious faith associated in the North Carolina District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Officers of the District Council and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the Lead Pastor and members of this assembly. As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and

the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the Lead Pastor, a majority of the church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements for a Lead Pastor to those standards set by the District Council and the General Council. By its affiliation, the assembly—directors, officers, and members—agree that no provision of these Bylaws shall be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of both the North Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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, 1 Corinthians 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 a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

Section 1. The Scripture Inspired

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

Section 2. The One True God

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

Section 3. 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, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 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 relationship, 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; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 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; Zechariah 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; 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 (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).

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(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 (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2, 10, 14; Revelation 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 (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 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 Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 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 (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

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(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; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

Section 4. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- (a) His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35)
- (b) His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22)
- (c) His substitute work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- (d) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38)
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4)
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3)

Section 5. 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. (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

Section 6. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an Heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11, Titus 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16), the outward evidence to all men in a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

(Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4).

(b) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements- bread and the fruit of the vine- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes!"

Section 8. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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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; 1 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 comes such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepening reverence for God (Acts 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).

Section 9. The 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 (1 Cor. 12:4- 10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

Section 10. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 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” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

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

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Section 11. The Church

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

Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped 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 (1 Corinthians 12:13).

- (c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- (d) To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Ps. 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 a worshipful relationship with God (1 Cor. 2:10-16; 1 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; 1 Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11,12; 1 Cor. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

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Section 12. The Ministry

A divinely-called and scripturally-ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a four-fold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) The evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

Section 13. 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 (Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

Section 14. 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 (1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51-52).

Section 15. 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; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20: 1-6). This millennial reign will bring salvation of national Israel (Ezek. 37:21-22; Zeph. 3:19-20; Rom. 11:26-27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa. 11:6-9; Psa. 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).

Section 16. 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; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21-8). 11

Section 17. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls,

and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Rom. 6:3- 5; Col. 2:12).

Section 2. Communion

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

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. Active Voting Membership

"Active Voting" membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- (a) A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- (b) Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- (c) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14 Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6,7).
- (d) Having regularly contributed to the financial support of this assembly.
- (e) Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- (f) Having reached at least 16 years of age.
- (g) Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- (h) Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the North Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended occasionally.

By virtue of office the Lead Pastor shall be considered an Active Voting member of the church during their tenure. The Lead Pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the Lead Pastor.

Section 3. Junior Membership

Junior membership shall be available for young people under 16 years of age who give evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these bylaws, and are approved by majority vote of the church board.

Section 4. Active Non-Voting Membership

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may declare a member "Active Non-Voting" by a unanimous vote of the board members present if upon review one of the following is found to exist without good cause:

- (a) Not having regularly contributed to the financial support of this assembly
- (b) Not having regularly attended services of this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the investigation.

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Active Non-Voting membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly.

Active Non-Voting members shall not be entitled to vote in any regular or special called meetings nor shall they be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VII of this Constitution.

Section 5. Inactive Membership

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may declare any member inactive by a majority vote of the board members present if upon review all the following are found to exist without good cause:

- (a) Absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a

period of 3 consecutive months or more

- (b) Cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of 3 consecutive months

Members declared “inactive” by a majority vote of the church board, shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by action of the assembly through its church board.

Section 6. Membership Roll

The church board shall review the list of active voting members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the board immediately preceding the annual business meeting, and compile a current list of active voting members.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. List of Corporation Officers

There shall be a chairman (Lead Pastor), vice chairman, and secretary of the corporation. The chairman, vice chairman, and secretary shall be known as the Executive Officers of the corporation.

Section 2. Board of Directors

There shall be a Board of Directors of not less than five members to serve with the chairman in the administration of the business affairs of the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Public Worship

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

Section 2. The Church Board

The church board shall meet monthly or at the call of the Lead Pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the Lead Pastor. A majority of the board members present shall constitute a quorum. Business may be conducted in person, via conference call, by text message, or by electronic mail at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board.

Section 3. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly at which time the election of the Board of Directors shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held during the month of January each year. Due notice shall be given on the three (3) Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 4. Special Business Meetings

- (a) Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the Lead Pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those active voting members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least 3 consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.
- (b) Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the Lead Pastor or the secretary. A petition pertaining to the status of the Lead Pastor shall be directed to the district superintendent, who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly.
- (c) No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any 12-month period.
- (d) Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at

any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 5. Parliamentary Order

All business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 6. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present along with any absentee ballots submitted prior to the set deadline.

Section 7. Members Under Process of Discipline

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed

Section 8. Quorum

No record of any special or regular business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third (1/3) or more active voting members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

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Section 9. Voting Procedures

- (a) All votes shall be administered and counted through procedures approved by the Lead Pastor and church board.
- (b) The Lead Pastor and church board will appoint a committee of tellers from among the active-voting membership to count any votes requiring a secret ballot and report the totals to the Chairman and Secretary.
- (c) Voting may be conducted in person, by mail, or by electronic ballot as approved by the Lead Pastor and church board.
- (d) Active-voting members shall be given an opportunity to vote in any election by absentee ballot through procedures approved by the Lead Pastor and church board.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. In General

The Lead Pastor and staff shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work, including those mentioned in this Article.

Section 2. Kids Department

There shall be a Kid's department created and conducted as a branch of the church activities. Its policies shall be approved by the Lead Pastor.

Section 3. Youth Department

There shall be a Youth Department which shall be conducted as a branch of the church activities. Its policies shall be approved by the Lead Pastor.

Section 4. Other Departments

As need arises, other departments or committees may be established. Their policies shall be approved by the Lead Pastor.

Section 5. Relationship

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

ARTICLE X. FINANCES

Section 1. In General

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed

upon by the Lead Pastor, and shall be administered by the treasurer, under his direction (Mal. 3:10; Lk 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).

Section 2. Handling of Offerings

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed by those counting the offering. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

Section 3. Pastoral Remuneration

- (a) The Lead Pastor shall be remunerated for his services by a salary or by other means agreed upon by the church board and himself. The church board shall review the Lead Pastor's remuneration at least annually.
- (b) The Lead Pastor shall be given consideration by the church board for expenses incurred by his attendance at District Councils, General Councils, and other District functions by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church as determined by the church board.

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ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name.

Section 2. Sales of Property

No property in value exceeding \$10,000 of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the active voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the assembly, which has been called for the consideration of the proposal.

The Lead Pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the assembly. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 3. Discontinuation of Church Services

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of 3 months under the direction of a leader duly authorized by and in good standing with the District Council, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article XI, section 4, of these bylaws.

Section 4. Disaffiliation

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship in full cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, and the North Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the District Presbytery of the North Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to said District Council and shall be used by the District as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the District may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

Section 5. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the North Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

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ARTICLE XII. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this church and the church itself, or (2) between any member of this church and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other worker of this church, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed.

Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again, Spirit-filled believers who are members of an Assemblies of God church.

The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before

accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator.

A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair his impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may on the basis of such disclosures disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than 30 days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request of a party and for good cause or upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear.

The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least 5 days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party.

The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state which may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award.

The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act. If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the church, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

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ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

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

Articles III, XI, and XII of this Constitution may be amended only by

the affirmative vote of 100 percent (100%) of the active voting members present at any annual or special business meeting called for the purpose of amending this Constitution. Article IV of this Constitution is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the District Council.

The Bylaws of Northlake Assembly of God

ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

- (a) The Executive Officers include the chairman, vice chairman, and secretary and are chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity in matters pertaining to the assembly in its physical life.
- (b) A majority present at any meeting of the Executive Officers shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a Lead Pastor, or the Lead Pastor is unable to be present, the Executive Officers shall be empowered to transact business for the assembly. 24
- (c) The terms “Chairman” and “Lead Pastor” shall be used interchangeably to refer to the same person and position.

Section 2. Chairman and Lead Pastor

- (a) Shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities.
- (b) Shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly, the Board of Directors, and of the Executive Officers.
- (c) Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.
- (d) Shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

- (e) Shall, as chairman of the church board, be chairman of the nominating committee for the selection of board member nominees. The Lead Pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as board members.
- (f) May appoint volunteer ministerial staff, teachers and leaders, and may recommend to the Board any individuals to be offered paid positions on staff. Upon financial review and necessary background checks, the final decision of hiring any paid staff shall only be made by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Vice Chairman

- (a) Shall be elected by and from the Board of Directors annually in February following the annual business meeting.
- (b) Shall temporarily serve as Chairman of the Board and of the corporation in the event that the assembly is without a Lead Pastor.

Section 4. Secretary

- (a) Shall keep or be responsible for the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Directors and the annual or special meetings of the assembly.
- (b) Shall, in coordination with church staff, keep a record of the membership of the assembly.
- (c) Shall perform other clerical functions necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties.
- (d) Shall, in coordination with church staff file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.

Section 5. Treasurer

- (a) Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the church board, and shall deposit all funds as a prudent investor would under the

circumstances. All checks issued on behalf of the church shall be printed by the church administrator and signed by the treasurer or other church board designated person.

- (b) Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.
- (c) Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
- (d) Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.
- (e) Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.
- (f) Shall be elected by the Board of Directors annually in February following the annual business meeting.
- (g) Should the Treasurer be unable to perform his duties, a member of the Board of Directors may assist staff with performing the duties for accountability purposes.

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Section 6. Board of Directors

- (a) The Board of Directors, under the guidance of the Lead Pastor, shall be responsible for the custodianship of church property, and directorship of the church in its forms as a corporation. Custodianship and directorship include, but are not limited to, the following areas of church business: Hiring and dismissal of paid staff; establishing, reviewing and making necessary changes to the budget and allowances for departments and funds; reviewing and approval of significant expenditure of funds, including emergency, non-budgeted items; establishing of terms and fees for any and all usage of the church facilities.
- (b) The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the

assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.

- (c) The church board shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.
- (d) The church board shall appoint a treasurer from among the active voting members who meet the qualifications for such office.

Section 7. Fiduciary Duties

The law imposes several fiduciary duties on officers and board members, including the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not commingling personal and corporate funds.

Section 8. Dual Offices

No person may serve in more than one church-elected office at one time, and upon their election to a new office, they shall vacate any other offices held immediately.

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Section 9. Local Church Credential

This assembly may grant a local church credential to persons wishing to pursue ministerial recognition pursuant to guidelines established by the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the North Carolina District Council. It is understood that this credential is to endorse ministry which is undertaken under the auspices of this church and implies no certification by the district council or the General Council, and is not transferable to other churches or ministries.

ARTICLE II. QUALIFICATIONS, ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Lead Pastor

- (a) A candidate for Lead Pastor shall be nominated by the

church board and presented to the assembly for approval. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.

- (b) The Lead Pastor shall be elected by the active, voting members of the church body to serve for an indefinite period of time. Election shall be by secret ballot, and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.
- (c) In the event that either the candidate for Lead Pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the District Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

Section 2. Secretary

- (a) The Secretary shall be elected at the annual business meeting by a majority vote. Nominations for this office will be accepted from any active voting member until three (3) weeks prior to the annual business meeting, allowing the Lead Pastor time to interview each nominee and for the board to approve them before placing the name on the ballot.
- (b) They shall be elected to serve a term of three (3) years and shall hold office until the conclusion of the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected.
- (c) By nature of this position, the secretary shall serve on the Board of Directors with voting privileges and shall be subject to the same qualifications and term limits as a member of the Board.
- (d) The secretary shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in

attendance at church services.

- (e) The Secretary shall not hold ministerial credentials.

Section 3. Treasurer

- (a) The Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors.
- (b) The term of office shall be until the conclusion of the succeeding annual business meeting.
- (c) The treasurer does not serve on the Board of Directors.
- (d) The Treasurer shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding appointment to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

Section 4. Members of the Board of Directors

- (a) Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual business meeting by majority vote. Nominations for this office will be accepted from any active voting member until three (3) weeks prior to the annual business meeting, allowing the Pastor time to interview each nominee before placing the name on the ballot. They shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Nominations for board member shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting.
- (b) They shall be elected to serve a term of three (3) years and shall hold office until the conclusion of the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected.
- (c) A member of the Board of Directors may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, or more than seven (7) consecutive years, but is eligible for nomination again after not serving for one year.

- (d) Board members shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Board members shall be at least 21 years old, and shall have been active voting members of the assembly for at least one year.
- (e) They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services.
- (f) They shall not hold ministerial credentials.
- (g) They shall not be a salaried employee hired by the church board to serve the assembly. "Salaried employee" is defined as anyone receiving regular monetary compensation from the church finances. This subsection does not apply to anyone serving in the position of Lead Pastor or anyone serving as a volunteer leader in a department or ministry.
- (h) They shall not be a close relative of a salaried employee. "Close relative" is defined as someone related by one or more of the following means: parent or parent-in-law; son or son-in-law; daughter or daughter-in-law; step-parent; step-son or step-daughter; brother or sister; step-brother or step-sister; grandparent or grandparent-in-law; grandchild or grandchild-in-law; or, if any of the preceding persons is one member of a couple, the other member of that couple; This subsection does not apply to any members currently serving at the time of its adoption.

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Section 5. Vacancies

- (a) When a vacancy of the Lead Pastor shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for by the Board of Directors until a Lead Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article 2, Section 1. In the event of a vacancy among the Board of Directors, the Board shall appoint a qualified candidate to fill the vacancy through the conclusion of the term of said vacancy.
- (b) When a Lead Pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the

District or General Council, the Lead Pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated.

- (c) In the event a special business meeting is called by petition as provided in Article VIII, Section 4, for the purpose of considering the status of the Lead Pastor, a majority vote of all voting members present and voting shall be required to remove a Lead Pastor from office.
- (d) The offices of secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.
- (e) The office of board member shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of a board member's active membership, whichever shall occur first.
- (f) Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the Lead Pastor) may be terminated by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a special business meeting called for the limited purpose of removal of such member from office or position of leadership which he holds.

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Section 6. Temporary Church Board

- (a) Should irreconcilable differences arise between the Lead Pastor and other members of the church board, destroying the unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery, upon request from the Lead Pastor or a majority of the church board members, shall investigate such differences. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of the investigating committee they may declare the church under District supervision.
- (b) The term "District supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to (1) suspend the constitution and bylaws of the church, (2) suspend the church board, (3)

reclassify the church as a District Council affiliated church, and (4) appoint and establish a temporary church board invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife shall cease.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Standard of Membership

To be considered for any membership with this assembly a person must show both

- (a) A profession of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth, 1 John 5:13).
- (b) A willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the assembly according to his or her ability (John 1:12, 13: 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

- (a) Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make application to the Lead Pastor and church board after having attended a membership class. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the church board shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll.
- (b) No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an annual business meeting or within 10 days before a special business meeting.
- (c) At least once per year the Board of Directors shall review the membership roll to ensure it is correct.

Section 3. Grounds for Discipline

- (a) Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly, as determined in the sole discretion of the church board.
- (b) Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three (3) consecutive months, or who shall be under charges shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case.
- (c) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member (Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8-9; Titus 3:1-15).

Section 4. Procedures for Discipline

- (a) Northlake Assembly of God will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps:
 - a. The Lead Pastor or a designated member of the church board discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately;
 - b. If the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the Lead Pastor and church board or with a designated committee of the church board in an effort to resolve the matter privately;
 - c. If the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the church board may submit the matter to the

membership of the assembly in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only active voting members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a special business meeting. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership (Matt. 18:17). However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

Section 5. Resignations

Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

Section 6. Transfer Members In

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility, may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly, upon the approval of a majority of the church board.

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Section 7. Transfer Members Out

Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the Lead Pastor for a letter. The letter is to be signed by the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE IV. PROPERTY RIGHTS

- (a) All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly.
- (b) No real or chattel property in value exceeding \$10,000 of the

assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership.

- (c) The Lead Pastor and the Secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
- (d) In the event that this assembly ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the N.C. District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Selma, North Carolina. The District Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by the District Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived there-from shall be used by the said District Council in the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

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ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

- (a) These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the active voting membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two (2) consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting.
- (b) That the Secretary and Board-approved staff are authorized to make non-substantive corrections in grammar, spelling, and numeration to these Bylaws without the necessity of an expressed amendment and vote. Any such changes may be overturned by a majority of the assembly at any annual or specially called meeting of the assembly.