

THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE

ASSEMBLIES

AFRICA FOR CHRIST

OF GOD

The Constitution of the Assemblies of God

1. Name

Assemblies of God.

2. Constituency

All Assemblies of God's people recognised by the General Conference.

3. General Conference: Membership and Executives

3.1 The General Conference consists of all:

- a) Accredited Ministers
- b) Probationary Ministers
- c) Recognised Elders and
- d) Recognised Delegates.

3.2 The General Conference shall function between sessions through the General Executive.

3.3 All ministers who are members of the General Conference shall be supervised by the General Conference, and shall be answerable to the General Executive acting on behalf of the General Conference.

4. Objectives and Principles

4.1 To promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all Scriptural means, recognising the Word of God as our all-sufficient rule and guide.

4.2 Recognising the sovereignty of local Assemblies, the General Conference convenes to promote fellowship and to assist the Assemblies, but not to exercise control over them.

5. Prerogatives

5.1 To exercise any of the powers of which true voluntary associations whose purpose is not the acquisition of gain, are capable.

5.2 To acquire by purchase, donation, lease, hire, exchange or otherwise, to hold in trust any property, movable or immovable, required or deemed necessary or expedient, and to sell, use, convey, mortgage, encumber, lease, exchange, donate, or otherwise transact or dispose of such property. If a property, movable or immovable, such as a church building, Minister's house or anything else is registered in the name of the Assemblies of God, and held under the General Constitution of the Assemblies of God, and not under a local Assembly constitution, such property, movable or immovable, is deemed to be held by the Assemblies of God and must continue to be so until the General Executive might decide otherwise. All rights of possession, occupation, or control in regard to such properties are as the General Executive

shall decide. Should an Assembly occupying such a property withdraw from the Assemblies of God, or have its fellowship with the Assemblies of God terminated for any reason, it must move out of all buildings so held and registered. No Minister or any other person shall continue to occupy or use any such property, movable or immovable, once he has received notice from the Executive to release or vacate such property.

- 5.3 To collect, borrow, borrow on overdraft, lend, solicit and accept funds and subscriptions which may be required for the purposes of the Assemblies of God.
- 5.4 To provide by resolution for any signature on behalf of the Assemblies of God for powers of attorney, deeds and documents, and without which no individual member may pledge the credit of the Assemblies of God.
- 5.5 To grant any of these powers to committees as may be determined by the General Executive.
- 5.6 To formulate Rules of Procedure binding upon the General Conference and amend these Rules of Procedure by a two-thirds majority vote in General Meeting, provided the proposed amendments have been submitted to the members of the Conference at least three months before the General Meeting, which is to consider such proposed amendments, takes place.
- 5.7 To recognise that in the Assemblies of God, Associations of Assemblies and Ministers co-operating on a Group principle exist. Such Associations as are already existing are Recognised.

6. Amendments

The General Conference shall have the power to amend, repeal, alter or add to all the Articles of this Constitution with the exception of Articles 1,2,4 and 6 provided that such proposed amendments or alterations have been submitted to the Members of the General Conference for consideration at least three months before the Conference. Such amendments and alterations, with the exception of Articles 1,2,4 and 6 shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the General Conference. Amendments or alterations to Articles 1,2,4 and 6 shall require six months' notice, and shall require a unanimous vote of the General Conference.

7. Definitions

7.1 Sovereignty

For the purpose of this Constitution the term "Sovereignty" as applied to local Assemblies shall mean the right of any congregation to conduct its

domestic affairs without outside interference; except where such an Assembly belongs to a "Group" or "Association," (see 7.5, page 3), but it shall not mean anything which shall give the local Assembly the right to act in a unilateral way which could affect the Assemblies of God as a whole, or any other individual Assembly of God, or the fair name of the Assemblies of God, or such Assemblies' qualifications for Recognised status.

7.2 Control

For the purpose of this Constitution "Control" shall mean any act which shall have the effect of directing the purely domestic affairs of any local Assembly, but it shall not mean anything which shall exclude the General Executive from enquiring into the practices or actions of any local Assembly in order to determine whether such practices or actions are Scriptural and/or godly, nor shall it mean anything which shall preclude discipline being applied to a local Assembly.

7.3 Assist

For the purpose of this Constitution the word "Assist" shall mean to stand by the local Assembly as far as practicably possible administratively, morally and spiritually, and shall include such meaning as will enable the General Executive to take effective steps to safeguard any local Assembly from schisms and from the loss of its assets and to ensure that Assemblies have the benefit of efficient and spiritual ministry.

7.4 Accredited Minister

For the purpose of this Constitution the term "Accredited Minister" shall mean one who is Recognised by the General Conference as Minister of the Assemblies of God on conditions which the General Conference shall determine.

7.5 Group or Association

For the purpose of this Constitution the terms "Group" and "Association" shall mean that to fulfill the objects and principles to which the members of the Assemblies of God are dedicated (see Constitution Article 4) Recognised Assemblies, Associate Assemblies, and Accredited and Probationary Ministers can co-operate in a permanently organised way within the Assemblies of God for mutual benefit, ministry, fellowship, and administration. Such "Associations" or "Groups" are formally Recognised by the General Conference (see Constitution Article 5.7). Such "Associations" or "Groups" have the right to formulate their own rules, and to have the right to make such provision for the purchase,

holding, transfer, or sale of property as the "Association" or "Group" deems appropriate (see Rules of Procedure, Section 39.3).

7.6 Domestic Affairs

"Domestic Affairs," for Assemblies belonging to a "Group" or "Association," are defined by that "Group" or "Association" and shall apply to the Assemblies belonging to that "Group" or "Association" (see Constitution, Article 7.5).

This is a true copy of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God accepted at the General Conference held at Shingwedzi in 1943 as amended by the General Conferences held in 1955, 1965, 1973, 1977, and 1979 at Witbank, and as amended at CYARA in 1981, and as amended at Mmabatho in 1989.

(Signed)

J.S.W. BOND
(General Chairman)

J.W.P. STEGMANN
(General Secretary)

Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God

In terms of its Constitution, the General Conference, which met at CYARA in September 1981, adopted the following Rules of Procedure:

ARRANGEMENTS OF SECTIONS

Part 1 - Preliminary	Page
1. Short Title	7
2. Interpretation of Terms	7
3. (Blank)	
Part 2 - General Conference: Meetings, Functions and Powers	
4. Membership of the General Conference	8
5. Procedure and the Calling of Meetings	8
6. The Election of the General Executive	8
7. The Prerogatives of the General Conference	8
8. The General Conference and the General Executive	9
9. The General Conference Funds	9
10. Remuneration	9
11. The Delegation of Powers	9
12. (Blank).	
Part 3 - General Executive: Meetings, Functions and Powers	
13. The Composition of the General Executive	10
14. Conference Organization	10
15. Conference Costs	10
16. The Trusteeship of Conference Property	10
17. The Setting of Fees	10
18. The Powers of the Executive	10
19. If a Conference Cannot be Held	11
20. Executive Quorum	11
21. The Functions of the General Chairman	11
22. The Signing of Credentials	12
23. The Duties of the General Secretary	12
24. The Duties of the Treasurer	12
25. (Blank)	
Part 4 - Assemblies: Recognition, Sovereignty, Organisation, Discipline and Relationships	
26. Application for the Recognition of Assemblies	14
27. The Recognition of the Constitution, Conference and Executive	14
28. One Constitution and By-Laws	14
29. The Qualifications for the Recognition of Assemblies	14
31. Associate Assemblies	14

32.	Preaching Points	15
33.	The Status of Assemblies	15
34.	The Assembly as a Legal Person	16
35.	Constitutional Consistency	16
36.	Trustees	16
37.	The Powers of a Corporate Body	16
38.	Withdrawal from the Assemblies of God	16
39.	The Organisation of Assemblies	17
40.	The Procedure for Association among Assemblies	18
41.	Regional Fellowships	19
42.	Matters of Dispute	19
43.	The Winding up of Assemblies	19
44.	(Blank)	
Part 5 - Ministers: Appointment, Credentials, Courtesy and Discipline		
44.	The Appointment of Ministers: Credentials	20
45.	Ministerial Courtesy	21
46.	The Discipline of Ministers	21
47.	(Blank)	
Part 6 - Statement of Fundamental Truths		
48.	The Bible	24
49.	God	24
50.	Jesus Christ	24
51.	The Resurrection	24
52.	Lordship	24
53.	The Second Advent of Christ	24
54.	The Fall	24
55.	Redemption	25
56.	The New Birth	25
57.	The Church	25
58.	Baptism	25
59.	The Lord's Supper	25
60.	Sanctification	25
61.	Baptism in the Holy Spirit	25
62.	Divine Healing	26
63.	Spiritual Gifts	26
64.	The Priesthood of Believers	26
65.	The Ministry	26
66.	Miracles	26
67.	Judgement	26

Part 1

Preliminary

1. Short Title

The following may be cited as the Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God.

2. Interpretation of Terms

In the Rules of Procedure, unless inconsistent with the context:

2.1 "Accredited" means that the person or body referred to has been issued with credentials by the Executive.

2.2 "Assembly" means the total membership of a group of Christian believers who worship together and generally adhere to the Fundamental Truths listed in these Rules of Procedure.

2.3 "Assist" has the meaning given in the Constitution.

2.4 "Association" has the meaning given in the Constitution.

2.5 "Conference" means the General Conference of the Assemblies of God.

2.6 "Constitution" means the Constitution adopted by the Conference and includes amendments thereto.

2.7 "Control" has the meaning given in the Constitution.

2.8 "Delegate" means a person appointed in terms of the Rules of Procedure by an Assembly and Recognised by the Executive as being a Member of the Conference.

2.9 "Executive" means the General Executive of the Assemblies of God.

2.10 "Group" has the meaning given in the Constitution.

2.11 "Member" (of an Assembly) means a person who has been accepted as a Member of an Assembly.

2.12 "Member" (of the Conference) means an Accredited Minister, Probationary Minister, Recognised Elder, or Recognised Delegate accepted as such by the Executive.

2.13 "Recognised" means Recognised by the Executive.

2.14 "Sovereignty" has the meaning given in the Constitution.

3. (Blank)

Part 2

General Conference: Meetings, Functions and Powers

4. Membership of the General Conference

The Conference consists of all Accredited and Probationary Ministers, Recognised Elders and Recognised Delegates (See Constitution Article 3.1). A Recognised Assembly shall be entitled to appoint one Delegate to the Conference, for the first 25 members of the Assembly, and thereafter one Delegate for each additional 100 members.

5. Procedure and the Calling of Meetings

5.1 The Conference shall be held once in two years.

5.2 The Executive may, at its own discretion, convene an Extraordinary Conference.

5.3 Two months' notice is required for the calling of a Conference.

5.4 The Conference shall elect a General Chairman by means of nomination from the floor and voting by secret ballot. In a separate nomination and election the General Conference shall elect a Vice Chairman. The General Chairman shall preside over the General Conference, and over meetings of the General Executive. Should the General Chairman be unable to do so on occasion, or should it on occasion be deemed desirable the Vice Chairman shall act in his stead. (See Rules of Procedure section 21).

5.5 The Conference shall observe the rules of parliamentary procedure.

6. The Election of the General Executive

1. When the Conference convenes, the Executive shall be elected by whatever means is deemed fit by the existing Executive.

2. The newly elected Executive shall meet during the Conference together with the retiring Executive.

7. The Prerogatives of the General Conference

The Conference may, within the framework of the Constitution (See Constitution Article 5):

7.1 Exercise any or all of the prerogatives listed as such in the Constitution.

7.2 Amend, alter or add to the Constitution as provided for in the Constitution.

7.3 Take into trust the property, whether movable or immovable, of any Assembly and to freeze all funds and assets of such Assembly in terms of Section 37.2 of the Rules of Procedure.

8. The General Conference and the General Executive

8.1 The Conference shall function between sessions (i.e. between the meetings held every two years) through the Executive. If a Conference cannot be held the Executive may act on its behalf and continue in office on a day-to-day basis until a Conference can be held (See Constitution Article 3.2, and the Rules of Procedure, Section 19).

8.2 The Executive shall implement the decisions and Rules of Procedure of the Conference, but cannot amend the Constitution or make Rules of Procedure (See Rules of Procedure, Section 18.5 and 18.10).

9. The General Conference Funds

The Conference and the Executive may collect, solicit, borrow, lend and accept such funds or subscriptions as may be required for the purposes of the Conference and/or the Executive.

10. Remuneration

The Conference and the Executive may remunerate its officials and any other persons who have rendered services to the Conference or the Executive.

11. The Delegation of Powers

Either the Conference or the Executive may delegate any of their powers to committees (See Constitution, Article 5.5).

12. (Blank).

Part 3

General Executive: Meetings, Functions and Powers

13. The Composition of the General Executive

The General Executive shall consist of members elected as stipulated in Section 6.1 of the Rules of Procedure and shall appoint a General Secretary and/or Treasurer.

14. Conference Organization

The Executive shall prepare the agenda for each Conference and shall appoint the necessary officers and committees for the Conference.

15. Conference Costs

The Executive shall devise ways and means whereby the costs of the Conference and also its own expenses shall be met.

16. The Trusteeship of Conference Property

The Executive shall arrange for the trusteeship of properties owned by the Conference and any movable or immovable property shall be held in the name of the trustees of the Assemblies of God.

17. The Setting of Fees

The Executive may set fees for services rendered, e.g. for credentials, applications for church sites, travelling expenses etc. These shall be scheduled by the General Secretary and notified to the Assemblies and Accredited, Probationary and Temporary Ministers, who will be expected to meet such expenses when they are incurred on their behalf.

18. The Powers of the Executive

The Executive shall have power to (See also Rules of Procedure, sections 11 and 46):

18.1 Give a letter of recognition to Assemblies on receipt of a prescribed application form duly completed on behalf of any Assembly. If an Assembly wishes to hold property in its own name it must have a Constitution containing the necessary provisions to do so and a certified copy of that Constitution shall accompany the application.

18.2 Give recognition as a Minister to any person on receipt of a prescribed application form duly completed by such a person.

18.3 Admit Accredited and Probationary Ministers and Recognised Elders and Delegates from Recognised Assemblies as Members of the Conference.

- 18.4 Refuse and withdraw recognition of Accredited, Probationary and Temporary Ministers and Recognised Assemblies.
- 18.5 Implement the decisions and Rules of Procedure of the Conference (See Rules of Procedure, Section 18.2).
- 18.6 Uphold the Sovereignty of Recognised Assemblies within the framework of the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure.
- 18.7 Enquire into and decide on matters of Scriptural procedure and/or doctrine and/or conduct of Accredited, Probationary and Temporary Ministers and Recognised Assemblies and Associate Assemblies (See Rules of Procedure, section 38.2). Assemblies and persons applying for Recognition concede these powers to the Executive and the Conference. Already Recognised Assemblies and persons accepting Recognition likewise concede these powers to the Executive and the Conference (See Rules of Procedure, section 28).
- 18.8 Be the final court of appeal, either as a body or by delegation, for all Recognised Assemblies of God and for all Accredited, Probationary and Temporary Ministers. Act as a court of discipline in matters affecting Accredited, Probationary and Temporary Ministers and Recognised or Associate Assemblies (See Rules of Procedure, section 46.8).
- 18.9 Require applicants for Recognition as Probationary Ministers to undergo a course of study and/or reading prescribed at the discretion of the Executive in order to help equip such persons for the Ministry.
- 18.10 Exercise the prerogatives set out in the Constitution with the exception of Article 5.6 (i.e. it cannot make Rules of Procedure).
- 18.11 Co-opt members to the Executive over and above those already on the Executive.
- 18.12 Be the final authority for the interpretation of these Rules of Procedure.
- 18.13 Take into trust properties and assets in terms of Rules of Procedure, section 37.3.

19. If a Conference Cannot be Held

The General Executive shall deal with all matters as indicated under Rules of Procedure, section 8.1.

20. Executive Quorum

A Quorum for the General Executive shall consist of 50% of the total number of Executive members.

21. The Functions of the General Chairman

21.1 The General Chairman or the Vice Chairman shall preside over meetings of the Conference, (See Rules of Procedure, section 5.4) and the Executive.

Should the Chairman or the Vice Chairman be unable to do so, on occasion, the Executive shall elect a temporary Chairman from among their number.

21.2 The Chairman or Vice Chairman has no casting vote.

21.3 The Chairman shall receive complaints where these cannot be resolved on a local level and shall act in terms of Rules of Procedure, section 41 to ensure that such complaints are looked into. Should the General Chairman for some reason be unavailable for a period of more than two months the Vice Chairman may act in his stead.

22. The Signing of Credentials

Credentials of Accredited, Probationary and Temporary Ministers and letters of recognition of Recognised Assemblies shall be signed jointly by the General Chairman and the General Secretary (See Rules of Procedure, section 26 and 44.2).

23. The Duties of the General Secretary

The General Secretary, or his duly authorised representative:

23.1 Shall keep accurate minutes of meetings of the Conference and the Executive. He shall record correctly all general statistics and he shall preserve these and all official and legal documents, and deliver them promptly to his successor.

23.2 Shall keep an up-to-date record of the following:

- a) All Accredited Ministers.
- b) All Probationary Ministers.
- c) All Temporary Ministers.
- d) All Recognised Assemblies of God.
- e) All Associate Assemblies.
- f) All preaching points.

23.3 Must sign all documents for church sites if these are to be held in the name of the Assemblies of God (See Constitution Article 5.2).

23.4 Shall deal, on behalf of the Executive, with government departments, other governing bodies and individuals.

23.5 The secretary shall enquire into the state of each preaching point at least every two years and report to the Executive to determine whether it merits continued recognition as a preaching point (See Rules of Procedure, section 32).

24. The Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect, disburse and keep a record of all monies received and disbursed on behalf of the Conference and the Executive as authorized by the General Executive. He shall furnish a yearly statement of

accounts and shall provide such reports as may be called for by the Conference or the Executive from time to time.

24. (Blank)

Part 4

Assemblies: Recognition, Sovereignty, Organisation, Discipline and Relationships

26. Application for the Recognition of Assemblies

Any Assembly desiring full "Assembly" recognition within the Assemblies of God, and therefore direct representation at the Conference, shall apply to the Executive on the prescribed form. Recognition shall be given or withheld at the discretion of the Executive.

27. The Recognition of the Constitution, Conference and Executive

Each Recognised Assembly shall recognise the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure, the Conference, its Executive and Officers (See Rules of Procedure, section 18.8 and 28).

28. One Constitution and By-Laws

On being granted recognition, Recognised Assemblies or Recognised Associate Assemblies (See Rules of Procedure, section 30) immediately fall under the Constitution and Rules of Procedure of the Conference (See Rules of Procedure, sections 18.8, 27 and 46.6).

29. The Qualifications for the Recognition of Assemblies

An Assembly is in the process of formation as two or three believers are gathered together in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but in this context, full recognition will only be given to an Assembly which qualifies as follows:

29.1 There must be at least 25 scripturally baptised Members.

29.2 The Assembly must have at least three Recognised Elders, or at least four if the incumbent Minister is regarded as an Elder (See Rules of Procedure, section 38.7).

29.3 The Assembly must satisfy the Executive that in its practices, manner of worship, discipline and general character and conduct, it is the kind of Assembly which could be associated with the Assemblies of God.

30. Associate Assemblies

30.1 An Assembly which does not qualify as a Recognised Assembly can be accepted as an Associate Assembly if it can show either:

- a) that it is under the care and oversight of a Recognised Minister of the Assemblies of God, acceptable to the Executive as an overseer, or
- b) that it is a branch work of some Recognised Assembly which accepts full responsibility for it.

- 30.2 Associate Assemblies are viewed as Assemblies in the process of formation. As such, they do not enjoy the sovereign status of Recognised Assemblies, and as such their autonomy is limited by such conditions as the Executive deems expedient to impose.
- 30.3 An Associate Assembly may use the name "Assembly of God," may own its own property and Control its own finances just as though it were a Recognised Assembly, but it is subject to the surveillance of the General Executive and may be placed under oversight chosen by the Executive. The Executive is responsible to ensure that such an Associate Assembly receives adequate ministry through its overseer.
- 30.4 An Associate Assembly shall not be represented at the Conference except that, where there is a Recognised Elder in an Associate Assembly, such Elder or Elders are, by virtue of this recognition, part of the Conference.
- 30.5 If placed under an overseer, that overseer can also represent the Associate Assembly before the Executive or at the Conference.
- 30.6 An Associate Assembly can apply for recognition as a Recognised Assembly when it can meet the conditions for its recognition by the Executive (See Rules of Procedure, section 29).
- 30.7 An Associate Assembly does not have the power to withdraw from the Assemblies of God for any reason.

31. Preaching Points

When a Recognised Assembly or an approved Recognised Minister intends extending the work in any stated area, this can be done by establishing a meeting in that area. Such meeting can be Recognised as a preaching point, subject to the approval of the Executive, in accordance with the following:.

- 31.1 Meetings shall be held regularly, at least once a week.
- 31.2 The meetings shall be subject to the discipline of an approved Minister or one of the Elders of a Recognised Assembly.
- 31.3 Existing works of the Assemblies of God must not be disturbed or interfered with and the harmonious working of the Assemblies shall not be upset

32. The Status of Assemblies

The status of Recognised Assemblies, Associate Assemblies and preaching points shall be subject to review by the Executive. A congregation which falls below the number of 25 scripturally baptised members or which ceases to have at least 3 Recognised elders may, at the discretion of the Executive, be reduced to the status of an Associate Assembly. In that case the Executive shall be responsible to see that such an Assembly receives adequate

oversight from some Recognised Minister of the Assemblies of God or from some Recognised Assembly (See Rules of Procedure, section 23.5).

33. The Assembly as a Legal Person

Each Recognised Assembly and Associate Assembly is a legal person, and can as such in its own name hold property, acquire rights, assume duties and generally act in law according to the terms of its own constitution which must be consistent with the terms of this Constitution and these Rules of Procedure (See especially Constitution, Article 5.2).

34. Constitutional Consistency

According to the terms of its own constitution, which must be consistent with this Constitution on this point, a Recognised Assembly does not have as its object the acquisition of gain for itself or for any of its members, and no Member or Minister has any right, by reason of membership, or ministry, to the property of a Recognised Assembly of God.

35. Trustees

A Recognised Assembly shall appoint trustees (being not less than two in number) to hold property on behalf of the said Assembly as a legal person and for this purpose is advised to have a constitution which shall make adequate legal provision for such tenure and for the acquisition and disposal of such property.

36. The Powers of a Corporate Body

A Recognised Assembly may generally exercise any of the powers of which a true corporate body, whose purpose is not the acquisition of gain, is capable.

37. Withdrawal from the Assemblies of God

37.1 No Assembly, whether Recognised or Associate, may change its name or alter the title deeds of any of its properties without the consent of the Executive given under the signature of the General Chairman and General Secretary, but the Executive may not refuse such consent unless it is reasonably certain that Constitutional procedures are not being followed.

37.2 Should any Assembly be disciplined by the Assemblies of God so that it withdraws or is expelled from the Assemblies of God, or fellowship is withdrawn from it, the Executive shall take into trust the property and freeze the assets until it is sure that a 4/5ths of the Members wish the property and assets to be transferred into some other name, and can prove that all monies owed to any person or fund in the Assemblies of God has been repaid in full (See Rules of Procedure, section 46.7).

- 37.3 Notwithstanding anything that has been stated elsewhere, if a property, movable or immovable, such as a church building, Minister's house or anything else is registered in the name of the "Assemblies of God," and the property is held under the General Constitution of the Assemblies of God, and not under the local Assembly Constitution , such property movable or immovable is deemed to be held by the Assemblies of God and must continue to be so until the Executive might decide otherwise (See Constitution, Article 5.2).
- 37.4 All rights of possession, occupation or Control in regard to such properties are as the Executive shall decide.
- 37.5 Should an Assembly occupying a property, as stipulated under section 37.3 of the Rules of Procedure, withdraw from the Assemblies of God, it must move out of all buildings so held and registered.
- 37.6 No Minister or any other person shall continue to occupy or use any such property, movable or immovable, once he has received notice from the Executive to release or vacate such property.
- 37.7 The Executive may withdraw fellowship from a Recognised Assembly or an Associate Assembly for any reason whatsoever if it decides by a 4/5ths majority that it no longer wishes to be associated with that, Assembly.

38. The Organisation of Assemblies

- 38.1 The spiritual and temporal leadership of a Recognised Assembly is exercised by a local oversight acceptable to the said Recognised Assembly. This can be augmented, if the Assembly so desires, by the inclusion of some person or persons of mature spiritual standing, accepted by the Assembly, provided that such a person or persons are approved as overseers by the Executive. Such an arrangement concerning augmented oversight, cannot be broken except by a majority vote of the Assembly concerned, taken by the said Recognised Assembly in the presence of some person appointed by the Executive or with the consent of the overseer.
- 38.2 Every Recognised Assembly shall accept that the Executive has the right to approve scriptural doctrine or conduct and to disapprove grossly unscriptural doctrine or conduct and that it has the right to act within the framework of the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure (See Rules of Procedure, section 18.7 and 18.8).
- 38.3 When in need of counsel, advice or guidance, a Recognised Assembly may appeal to the Executive.

- 38.4 A Recognised Assembly, or any Member of such an Assembly, may appeal to the Executive if dissatisfaction arises from a decision by the leadership or oversight of the said Recognised Assembly.
- 38.5 Every Recognised Assembly shall keep books, in which their financial transactions are recorded, which shall be audited once a year. Each Assembly shall be regularly acquainted with its financial position. This shall be done not less than once in three months in a meeting open to all members of the Assembly who shall have the right to discuss the finances of the Assembly.
- 38.6 The financial needs of Recognised Assemblies are normally supplied by the tithes and offerings contributed by the congregations of such Recognised Assemblies. Worldly activities for the accumulation of funds are deprecated.
- 38.7 A Recognised elder is one who has been accepted in that position by a Recognised Assembly, and has been Recognised and recorded as such by the Executive.
- 38.8 Young people's work, Sunday School work, Men's Fellowships, Women's Meetings, organised Crusades and Evangelistic Outreaches and such activities are commended. It is stressed that such activities must be carried on in a manner consistent with the principles of the Assemblies of God. United rallies and the like must be arranged with the full consent of those Recognised Assemblies who could be directly affected, and shall in every way be so arranged and conducted that clashes or friction with Recognised Assemblies are avoided.

39. The Procedure for Association among Assemblies

- 39.1 To fulfil the objects and principles to which the Members of the Assemblies of God are dedicated (See Constitution, Article 4), Recognised Assemblies, Associate Assemblies and Accredited and Probationary Ministers do co-operate in a permanently organised way within the Assemblies of God for mutual benefit, ministry, fellowship and administration. Such Associations are formally Recognised by the Executive.
- 39.2 The Executive shall, in the interests of the Assemblies of God, have the right to limit the number of such Associations in the Assemblies of God.
- 39.3 A Recognised Association shall be subject to the Constitution of the Assemblies of God, and to the Rules of Procedure made in terms of the Constitution, and a Recognised Association is empowered to make rules or pass resolutions for its own welfare. Such rules and/or resolutions shall be applicable in the Association concerned, but shall not apply to any other part of the Assemblies of God.

39.4 A Recognised Association is empowered to have its own Conference, and to appoint its own officers, but shall only function domestically within the limits of the said Association.

39.5 Applications by persons desiring recognition as Probationary Ministers or Accredited Ministers, and by Assemblies desiring recognition in the Assemblies of God, can be directed to the Executive through an Association and will be dealt with at the discretion of the Executive.

39.6 A Recognised Association shall have the power to organise its own financial matters, collect, solicit, disburse, and lend funds and own its own property, movable or immovable, and to operate banking accounts.

40. Regional Fellowships

Where deemed beneficial to the local work in any particular area, the Executive may authorise a district meeting of representatives of all Assemblies in that particular area, and may delegate to such a meeting certain powers as may be deemed necessary by the Executive. Such a meeting can have its own chairman and a secretary and can collect, disburse and handle funds.

41. Matters of Dispute

Matters of dispute should be settled on a local level. Where this is not done, the matter can be referred to the General Chairman by any concerned party. After consultation with at least one Executive member and brethren of the local Assemblies concerned, the General Chairman shall appoint a committee to resolve the matter and the committee shall report back to the Executive. The Executive shall have the right to review the decisions of the committee. Such a committee shall have on it at least one member of the Executive, and shall, if at all possible, have on it some members from the local district. Should the General Chairman be unavailable for some reason for a period of more than two months the Vice Chairman may act in his stead.

42. The Winding up of Assemblies

If on winding up or dissolution of an Assembly there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property movable or immovable whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Assembly or to any Minister, but shall be given or transferred to some Assembly of like faith or some other organisation whose object is to spread the Truth of God's Word, to be determined by the members of the Assembly at or before the time of dissolution, and in default thereof, by the Executive of the Assemblies of God.

43. (Blank)

Part 5

Ministers: Appointment, Credentials, Courtesy and Discipline

44. The Appointment of Ministers: Credentials

- 44.1 Any person desiring to be Recognised as an Accredited Minister must complete the prescribed application form (See Rules of Procedure, section 18.2). The application must be approved by the Recognised Assembly to which the applicant belongs, and forwarded to a Recognised Association (See Rules of Procedure, section 39.5). The Association must then forward the application to the General Executive for consideration.
- 44.2 If recognition is given by the General Executive, the said applicant shall be issued with a certificate as a Probationary Minister. Such certificate shall be signed by the General Chairman and the General Secretary (See Rules of Procedure, section 22). Probationary credentials may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the Executive.
- 44.3 At the Conference, after a probationary period of not less than 4 years has expired, the said applicant will be considered for full recognition as an Accredited Minister. If such recognition is granted by the Executive, the said applicant will be given a certificate as an Accredited Minister, such certificate being issued the following January.
- 44.4 Probationary Ministers may exercise all the functions of a Minister, but are not eligible to take a place on the Executive. During the period of probation, the Probationary Minister must be under the tutelage of someone approved by the Executive to care for him. He shall take a course of study acceptable to the General Executive as suitable to his particular case. It would also be desirable, if practically possible, for a Probationary Minister to gain experience in at least three different Assemblies of God congregations during the time of his probation.
- 44.5 Every Minister is advised to take an approved course in Bible training, but academic accomplishment shall not be a condition affecting the recognition of applicants for ministerial credentials.
- 44.6 When an Accredited Minister from another church body wishes to minister in this country under the auspices of the Assemblies of God for a continuous period of more than six months such person shall apply to the Executive, on the prescribed application form, for Temporary credentials. The General Executive shall grant or withhold such credentials at their own discretion.

44.7 The General Executive shall have the power to summarily withdraw Temporary credentials.

44.8 Persons holding Temporary credentials shall have full power to exercise their ministry just as if they held full credentials and they shall have the right to attend Conferences as non-voting observers but shall not be eligible to serve on the Executive.

44.9 Temporary credentials may only be held up to a period of two years. After two years continuous service in the Assemblies of God, full credentials can be applied for and shall be issued or withheld at the discretion of the Executive.

45. Ministerial Courtesy

Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers, Temporary Ministers and Elders are precluded from interfering with persons bearing the oversight in Recognised Assemblies other than their own, whether by intruding on their work without consent, or by such contact with members of the said Recognised Assembly as might hurt, or reasonably be deemed to hurt the influence of the oversight of the said Recognised Assembly. Correspondence with a Recognised Assembly shall be addressed to the Recognised officers of the said Assembly.

46. The Discipline of Ministers

46.1 The Executive may take action against Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers or Temporary Ministers for the following reasons:

- a) A clear infringement of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure.
- b) A clearly proven inefficiency in the ministry.
- c) A contentious or non-co-operative spirit.
- d) An assumption of dictatorial authority over a Recognised Assembly.
- e) An arbitrary rejection of the Conference or the Executive, whether by active means or by passive means (i.e. persistently ignoring correspondence).
- f) A radical change in doctrinal views which would conflict with the standards accepted in the Assemblies of God (See Statement of Fundamental Truths).
- g) A habit of running into debt.
- h) Any other form of ungodliness e.g. 1 Corinthians 5:10-13 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

46.2 No anonymous charge shall be taken up against any person. Every person shall have a reasonable opportunity to answer charges brought against him/her, and to summon witnesses for his/her defence.

- 46.3 Where a person is found guilty, the following sanctions can be applied:
- a) A censure.
 - b) Suspension under such terms, and for such a period, as decided by the Executive.
 - c) Withdrawal of credentials.
 - d) Excommunication.
 - e) Any other form of discipline deemed fit by the Executive.
- 46.4 The Executive can decide by at least a 4/5ths majority, for any reason whatsoever, to deprive a Minister of his credentials because they no longer wish to be associated with that Minister.
- 46.5 The decision of the Executive shall be final, though the Executive shall have the power to review or rescind its decision.
- 46.6 Assemblies must co-operate with the Executive in all matters pertaining to their function and powers, including matters of discipline (See Rules of Procedure, section 28).
- 46.7 An Assembly which receives regular ministry from anyone whose credentials have been withdrawn as an Accredited Minister or Probationary Minister or Temporary Minister, or who has resigned as a Minister as a result of disciplinary procedures being contemplated, commenced or concluded, or has been excommunicated, etc., shall be deemed to have violated the terms of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure. If after exhortation and warning the said Assembly continues in this course, the Executive shall have the power to withdraw recognition from the said Assembly. The decision of the Executive shall be final. In the event of such action, the Executive shall determine whether there are those in the Assembly willing to accept the exhortation and warning of the Executive, and if the Executive believes there are such or could be such, the Executive shall take into trust and administer all properties, assets and funds on behalf of such person or persons until such time as they are able to function on their own as an Assembly. Where property, movable or immovable, is held in the name of the Assemblies of God under the General Constitution of the Assemblies of God and not under a local Assembly constitution. It shall in all circumstances be retained by the Executive who shall have the power to say who may use such property (See Rules of Procedure, section 37).
- 46.8 The Executive shall be the final court of appeal in all matters of discipline (See Rules of Procedure, section 18.8).

46.9 Matters of discipline relating to Ministers should preferably be dealt with on the local level, but no one may be disciplined in terms of section 46 without the matter being submitted to the General Executive for confirmation or review. Disciplined persons have the right to appeal to the General Executive if they wish. Where a matter is not dealt with on the local level, any concerned party can refer it to the General Chairman who, in consultation with at least one other member of the General Executive, can appoint a committee to investigate and decide on the matter. The said committee reports back to the General Executive who will have the right to overrule the committee's judgement if they deem fit.

46.10 The purpose of all church discipline must have in view the welfare of the church and that of the offending party, as well as the glory of God who is holy, just and merciful. Where there is genuine repentance, the Christian fellowship must do everything it can to help the fallen person to redeem himself/herself so as to make a new start. This could entail financial help.

47. (Blank)

Part 6

Statement of Fundamental Truths or, Things Commonly Believed Among Us

48. The Bible

We believe the Bible is inspired by God. 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

49. God

We believe the Godhead is eternally co-equal and co-existent in three persons; not three Gods but one; not one Person but three, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:26; Mark 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19.

50. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Thus we uphold His absolute deity as well as His complete humanity; two natures but one undivided Person. Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1; Hebrews 2:9-16; Hebrews 1:5-12; Philippians 2:5-8.

51. The Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that He ascended into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God, in the position of power and authority. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead. Daniel 12:2; Romans 8:34; Mark 12:36; Mark 14:62; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4,20; Philippians 2:8-11; Acts 2:33; Luke 22:69; Hebrews 8:1; Revelation 20:11-15.

52. Lordship

We confess the Lord Jesus Christ and no other, as Head of the Church, and as our Lord. Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18,24.

53. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus will manifest Himself in glory, majesty and power and in physical Presence. This **is** the second coming of Christ and the blessed hope of the Church. Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:27; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 22:7; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

54. The Fall

Every individual has sinned and is guilty before God. Man by nature is depraved and incapable of saving his own soul. Romans 3:10,23; Ephesians 2:8-10.

55. Redemption

The Lord Jesus Christ, by His life, death, resurrection and ascension, has made available to all mankind the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. These blessings are made personally real to the individual, not by works, or by any personal merit in themselves, but by faith alone, which is accompanied by repentance. John 3:16; Romans 8:8-13; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:4-7; Titus 2:11.

56. The New Birth

We believe in the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Birth, which makes a repentant sinner a child of God being baptised by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. John 1:11-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:22-25; 1 Corinthians 12:13.

57. The Church

We believe that the true Church consists of the community of true believers **in** the Lord Jesus Christ, who by faith have had their sins forgiven and have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the fellowship of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, recognising that the true Church is not confined to any one denomination. Hebrews 12:23-24; 1 John 1:7; Ephesians 3:3-10; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 4:3-6; 1 Corinthians 10:32.

58. Baptism

We believe in the baptism by immersion, of believers only. Matthew 28:19; Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 10:47; Hebrews 10:22; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21.

59. The Lord's Supper

We believe in the Breaking of Bread as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ and as practised by the Early Church. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

60. Sanctification

The Scriptures teach of a life of holiness, and we are to obey the command "Be ye holy for I am holy." Believers are sanctified (i.e. set apart) for God's purpose at conversion. Continuation in sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word and through faith and submission to the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 6:1; Philippians 3:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

61. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Baptiser in the Holy Spirit, and that this baptism, as a distinct experience from the New Birth, is promised

to every believer. Matthew 3:11; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 11:14-16; Acts 2:32-33; Acts 15:7-9.

62. Divine Healing

We believe in the gifts of healing and that God still, in our day, heals the sick. Mark 16:16-18; Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14-15.

63. Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God has never removed the gifts referred to in 1 Corinthians chapters 12,13 and 14, and that whenever the Holy Spirit moves on the Church in power, these gifts are manifested. We believe it is contrary to the Apostolic command for any to: "forbid to speak in tongues."

64. The Priesthood of Believers

Each individual believer has full and equal access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ, as a believer-priest. 1 Peter 2:1-9; Revelation 5:9-10 (R.V.); Revelation 1:6.

65. The Ministry

The ascended Christ has given various ministries to the Church and each of these exist for the strengthening of, and is essential to, the welfare of the Church. They are set forth in Ephesians 4:11, 1 Corinthians 12:28 and elsewhere.

66. Miracles

We believe in miracles, both as recorded in the Bible, and as being possible in the present day. John 14:12; 1 Corinthians 12:10.

67. Judgement

We believe that both the living and the dead will be judged, it being understood that the believer's condemnation was borne by our Lord Jesus Christ in His redemptive work. John 5:24,28-29; Revelation 20:11-15.