

# **REVISED BYLAWS**

of

The Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God  
A Washington Non-Profit Corporation  
d/b/a

## **THE NORTHWEST MINISTRY NETWORK** of the Assemblies of God

*(Updated with 2015 Annual Conference Resolutions)*



# **NWMN REVISED BYLAWS 2014**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>NWMN PROPOSED REVISED BYLAWS 2014 .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HISTORIC PREAMBLE (JULY 3, 1919): .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ARTICLE I. NAME.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Section 1. Missional Principles.....	6
Section 2. Credentialing Principles.....	6
Section 3. Operational Principles .....	6
Section 4. Governance Principles .....	6
Section 5. Fellowship Principles .....	7
<b>ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Section 1. Ministers.....	13
Section 2. Local Churches .....	13
<b>ARTICLE V. NETWORK LEADERSHIP.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Section 1. Definitions .....	13
Section 2. Duties .....	14
Section 3. Conflict of Interest.....	14
Section 4. Qualifications.....	14
Section 5. Elections and Terms of Office .....	15
Section 6. Vacancies.....	19
<b>ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>21</b>

Section 1. Board of Directors Meetings .....	21
Section 2. Annual Conference.....	21
Section 3. Voting Constituency .....	21
Section 4. Church Delegates .....	22
Section 5. Rules of Order .....	22
Section 6. Order of Business.....	22
Section 7. Quorum.....	22
Section 8. Minutes .....	22
Section 9. Resolutions .....	23
Section 10. Balloting .....	23
 <b>ARTICLE VII. LOCAL CHURCHES (ASSEMBLIES) .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Section 1. General Council Governance.....	24
Section 2. Northwest Ministry Network Affiliation .....	24
Section 3. General Council Affiliation .....	24
Section 4. Cooperating Churches .....	24
Section 5. Right of Self Government .....	24
Section 6. Sovereignty .....	25
Section 7. Order .....	25
Section 8. Rules Governing Disaffiliation .....	25
Section 9. Missions Participation.....	26
Section 10. Northwest Ministry Network Supervision .....	26
 <b>ARTICLE VIII. LOCAL CHURCH INTERVENTION .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Section 1. Principles of Interdependency .....	26
Section 2. Circumstances Requiring Investigation .....	27
Section 3. Definition of Terms .....	27
Section 4. Right to Initiate .....	27
Section 5. Procedures for Counsel .....	28

Section 6. Procedures for Mediation .....	28
Section 7. Procedures for Intervention .....	28
Section 8. Precedence of Bylaws for Sovereign Churches .....	28
<b>ARTICLE IX. MINISTRY .....</b>	<b>28</b>
Section 1. General Council Governance.....	28
Section 2. Ministerial Credentials and Procedures.....	28
Section 3. Ministerial Ethics .....	29
Section 4. Financial Responsibility.....	30
Section 5. Renewal of Credentials .....	30
Section 6. Retirement .....	30
Section 7. Ministers Retirement Funds.....	30
<b>ARTICLE X. CORPORATE RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>31</b>
Section 1. Northwest Ministry Network Financial Procedures .....	31
Section 2. Audit.....	32
Section 3. Indemnification.....	32
<b>ARTICLE XI. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>ARTICLE XII. DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>ARTICLE XIII. NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Section 1. Administration .....	33
Section 2. Finances .....	33
<b>ARTICLE XIV. AFFILIATED CORPORATIONS .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Section 1. Governing Provisions.....	33
Section 2. Funding .....	33
Section 3. Amenability.....	33

**ARTICLE XV. PROPERTY ..... 34**

Section 1. Ownership of Property .....34

Section 2. Conveyance of Property .....34

**ARTICLE XVI. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE ..... 34**

Section 1. Beneficiary .....34

Section 2. Disposition .....34

**ARTICLE XVII. RECORDS ..... 35**

**ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS ..... 35**

*These bylaws adopted April 30, 2014 Vancouver, WA 2014 Annual Conference*

**HISTORIC PREAMBLE (July 3, 1919):**

**Whereas**, in these last days, God has been and is pouring out his Spirit upon all flesh in fulfillment of his promise (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17), resulting in a ministry of Spirit-baptized men and women (Luke 24:48,49), and the formation of Pentecostal assemblies of saved and Spirit-baptized believers (Acts 11:15, 16) and

**Whereas**, a representative company of this ministry and fellowship has associated itself in general unity under the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (A Missouri non-profit corporation) for propagating the fullness of the gospel, and

**Whereas**, this General Council of the Assemblies of God has made provision for the local oversight of ministerial matters and the care and development of local assemblies through the agency of district councils, and

**Whereas**, in accord therewith in the year 1919, the third day of July, The Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God (a Washington non-profit corporation) was formed and recognized by the parent body, and assumed the aforesaid solemn obligation, and

**Whereas**, under the blessing of God, the work of this Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God has grown greatly, bringing an increasing need for a fuller and clearer constitutional declaration; therefore,

**Resolved**, That we, The Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God, agree to adopt and be governed by the following Bylaws:

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this body shall be THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Washington non-profit corporation, doing business as (d/b/a) THE NORTHWEST MINISTRY NETWORK OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, hereinafter referred to as the Northwest Ministry Network (or NWMN) in this document, and shall include all territory in the State of Washington and the northern territory of the State of Idaho.

## **ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

### **Section 1. Missional Principles**

Our purpose is to fulfill the Great Commission by partnering with and empowering church leaders to develop healthy, growing Christians and churches; to strengthen and network ministry teams; and to effectively reach unchurched people in our communities and around the world while maintaining our historic purposes to fulfill the commission of the Church (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8), propagate the Gospel in its fullness, and carry out the principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (also referred to as General Council in this document) in maintaining scriptural doctrine and order.

### **Section 2. Credentialing Principles**

To examine and credential candidates for the ministry under guidelines as set forth by the NWMN or General Council, and to assume the oversight of all ministerial matters in the NWMN as far as the NWMN or General Council may be affected thereby.

### **Section 3. Operational Principles**

To establish, organize, operate and maintain such teams, divisions, departments and institutions as may be thought advisable for the pursuance of its work as outlined in the NWMN Organizational Manual and the NWMN Operational Manual. Oversight of these manuals shall be the responsibility of the administration and all changes shall be approved by the Network Presbytery in session at any regular or specially called meeting. Emergency rules or regulations may be adopted as needed by either the Executive Presbytery or Network Presbytery in session.

### **Section 4. Governance Principles**

The NWMN shall have the following powers:

- A. To elect its own officers and select its own teams, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.
- B. To determine how to best fulfill the vision of “strengthening and developing empowered leaders and churches” in and through the NWMN.
- C. To practice our values of authentic faith, passion for the spiritual seeker, empowering leaders, developing healthy relationships and serving churches.
- D. To set boundaries for geographical Regions and fellowship Areas in order to serve our broad constituency as determined by the Network Presbytery and delineated in the Organizational and Operational Manuals of the NWMN.

## **Section 5. Fellowship Principles**

The NWMN shall as nearly as possible represent the body of Christ as described in the New Testament, particularly the principles of unity, fellowship, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that adherence to those principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason for being, and to maintain conditions under which it can, as a fellowship, demonstrate those principles and their consequent development. To facilitate these principles of fellowship, we choose to affiliate with and be a member District of General Council.

## **ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH**

The Articles of Faith shall be the same as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of General Council and its local Assemblies of God, which are as follows:

### **STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

*(Revised 1961 General Council, edited 2005 General Council)*

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule of 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.

#### **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 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

#### **2. The One True God**

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

#### **The Adorable Godhead**

##### **(a) Terms Defined**

The terms "trinity" and "person", as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with the 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 it is unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; Matthew 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 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 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; 17:21; 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 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 1:3,7; 2 John 3).

**(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us**

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us (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 1:1-13; 7:3).

**(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (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 at 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).

**(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 relationships (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).

### **3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

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

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

### **4. The Fall of Man**

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only

physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

## **5. The Salvation of Man**

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

### **(a) Conditions to Salvation**

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

### **(b) The Evidences of Salvation**

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

## **6. 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 (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

### **(b) Holy Communion**

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

## **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

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

God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

## **9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 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 (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

## **10. The Church and Its Mission**

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the NWMN 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).

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 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 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 (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

## **11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-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), and (3) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

## **12. Divine Healing**

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

## **13. The Blessed Hope**

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

## **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27); and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

## **15. The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

## **16. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22).

### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the NWMN shall consist of:

#### **Section 1. Ministers**

All ministers having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the NWMN and holding credentials with General Council or the NWMN.

#### **Section 2. Local Churches**

Each local church officially affiliated with General Council or the NWMN. Each local church may be represented at the NWMN Annual Conference sessions by one lay delegate, subject to the regulations of the Bylaws. Each local church should consult with the NWMN leadership before amending their Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws (legal governance documents) and shall furnish a copy of such proposed changes to the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) office before congregational action is taken. Copies of all legal governance documents shall be provided to the office of the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) for the church permanent record as a requirement of membership.

### **ARTICLE V. NETWORK LEADERSHIP**

#### **Section 1. Definitions**

- A. **Corporate Officers:** The Corporate Officers shall be the Network Leader, and two other individuals as Associate Network Leaders. They shall serve in their respective roles at the discretion of the Network Leader in consultation with the Executive Presbytery according to their gifts and abilities as the Corporate Vice President and Corporate Secretary-Treasurer. The Network Leader shall serve as President of the Corporation and Chairperson of the Board By virtue of their office, the Corporate Officers shall be members of the Executive Presbytery and Network Presbytery and be authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the corporation.
- B. **Network Officials:** The Network Officials shall include the Corporate Officers, the Regional Leaders (called Executive Presbyters in General Council nomenclature, Regional Leaders in NWMN nomenclature), and the Area Leaders (called Sectional Presbyters in General Council nomenclature and Area Leaders in NWMN nomenclature) who together shall constitute the official board of directors for the NWMN. When referred to as a group, the Regional Leaders shall be referred to as the Executive Presbytery and the combined Area Leaders and Regional Leaders making up the official board of directors shall be referred to as the Network Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall have the power to act as the official board of directors between regular sessions of the NWMN Annual

Conference, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors.

- C. **General Council Officials:** General Council officials shall include the General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter (if a resident of the NWMN) and the General Presbyters who shall be, by virtue of their office, members of the Network Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery.
- D. **Other Elected Leaders:** Elected Leaders may include Area (Sectional is General Council nomenclature, Area is NWMN nomenclature) Leadership Team persons and other persons as authorized by the NWMN Bylaws or Organizational Manual.

## **Section 2. Duties**

Corporate Officers, Network Officials, and all Elected Leaders shall perform duties as stipulated in these Bylaws and the NWMN Organizational and Operational Manuals.

## **Section 3. Conflict of Interest**

NWMN Corporate Officers, Officials or Elected Leaders who have an interest or relationship that biases, or appears to bias, a decision-making process shall disqualify themselves in matters of ministerial credentials and discipline, or disciplinary intervention in local assemblies when family, staff, close friendships, or business and pastoral relationships are involved.

## **Section 4. Qualifications**

### **A. Corporate Officers** shall:

- (1) Be ministers of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above question;
- (2) Have held credentials and ministered as ordained ministers for at least five consecutive years in the Assemblies of God;
- (3) Have been members of the NWMN for at least three years immediately prior to their election; and
- (4) Be in alignment with the mission and core values of the NWMN.

### **B. Network Officials:**

#### **(1) Regional Leaders and Area Leaders:**

- (a) The Regional Leader shall be a resident ordained minister who has resided in the Region in which he or she is nominated for office for at least one year.
- (b) The Area Leader shall be a resident ordained minister who has resided in the Area in which he or she is nominated for office for at least one year.
- (c) Appointed Area Leaders shall be resident ordained ministers.
- (d) Network Officials shall have been members of General Council and of the NWMN for at least three years.

### **C. Area Leadership Team Persons:** The Area Leadership Team members shall meet the same qualifications as the Area Leaders. If a sufficient number of willing

and able ordained ministers are not available in an Area, licensed ministers may be considered as candidates. Exceptions to the ordination requirement may be made at the recommendation of the Area Leadership Team with ratification by the Executive Presbytery.

**D. General Council Officials:**

- (1) General Presbyters: Three General Presbyters shall be chosen from the ordained ministers of the NWMN to include: the Network Leader, the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position), and a pastor (pastoral position) who meets the qualifications as stated in current General Council Bylaws. The Associate Network Leader (Vice-President position) may be asked to audit the General Presbytery meetings, at the discretion of the Network Leader.
- (2) General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter: The nominee for General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter shall meet the qualifications as stated in current General Council Bylaws, and permanently reside in the NWMN.

**Section 5. Elections and Terms of Office**

- A. **Time of Election:** Network Officials of the NWMN shall be elected as prescribed by these Bylaws, either during the NWMN Annual Conference, or during official Executive/Network Presbytery Meetings, Regional Meetings or Area Meetings.
- Term of Office:** Corporate Officers of the NWMN shall be elected to serve four year terms.

**B. Manner of Election:**

**(1) Network Leader:**

- (a) The Executive Presbytery shall act as or appoint a Search Team, not having more than eleven members. The Search Team will lead an open search process (open in the sense of public announcement of the formation of the team and vacant position to be filled and being open to receive names of potential candidates from any NWMN minister or church).
- (b) The Search Team shall seek and interview candidates who may have the gifts, calling, aptitude and experience necessary for the position. They shall recommend one or more candidates who are qualified and willing to serve.
- (c) Candidates shall be presented to the Network Presbytery who shall interview the candidates and nominate one or more to be presented to the NWMN in session.
- (d) The candidate(s) nominated by the Network Presbytery shall appear on the nominating ballot along with a line for a write-in candidate.
- (e) Election at the NWMN Annual Conference or specially called meeting shall be by secret ballot with a two-thirds vote required for election. Balloting shall be in accordance with Article VI, Section 10 of these Bylaws.

- (f) Prepared materials shall be distributed for each candidate nominated by the Network Presbytery to the voting constituency at least 10 days prior to balloting.
- (g) In order to stagger and sequence the terms of the Network Officers, the Network Presbytery may establish the length of a first term for an open position to a term other than what is otherwise specified in the Bylaws. The initial term shall not be less than three years and not more than five years.
- (h) Subsequent re-election of the Network Leader:
  - i. At least 180 days prior to the expiration of his or her term of office, the Network Leader shall confer with the Regional Leaders for the purpose of determining his or her candidacy for another term.
  - ii. If there is not agreement to move forward as specified above, the Executive Presbytery shall initiate the search and nomination process specified in Article V, Section 5, paragraph B (1) of these Bylaws.
  - iii. Upon mutual agreement by the Executive Presbytery and the Network Leader, his or her name shall be placed in nomination for re-election. The candidate's name shall appear on the nominating ballot along with a line for a write-in candidate.

**(2) Associate Network Leaders (Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer positions):**

The Associate Network Leaders shall be elected and re-elected in the same manner as the Network Leader.

**(3) Executive Presbytery:**

- (a) The Executive Presbytery shall be elected from their respective Regions as outlined in the NWMN Organizational or Operational Manual. The General Presbyter (pastoral position) and the chairperson of the Finance Team shall serve as members of the Executive Presbytery by virtue of their office. The Non-Resident Executive Presbyter shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Presbytery.
- (b) Each Area shall nominate a candidate from their Region for the office of Regional Leader at the annual Area Business Meeting. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. Voting by secret ballot shall continue until one nominee shall have received a majority of votes cast. If each Area within a Region nominates the same individual for election or re-election, then that individual shall automatically be presented for ratification at the NWMN Annual Conference for ratification by two-thirds majority of the ballots cast.
- (c) If more than one candidate is nominated for Regional Leader in the Area meetings, then those names shall be submitted for vote by the ministers and churches within the Region via E-Poll. The results of the E-Poll shall be made known to the Executive Presbytery as an advisory ballot and they shall select one nominee to be presented to the NWMN Annual Conference in session for ratification by two-thirds majority of the ballots



cast.

- (d) The term of office shall be for two years, commencing at the time of election.
- (e) The term of office shall not exceed three consecutive two-year terms, but Regional Leaders may be re-elected after one year has elapsed. When a new Region is formed, the Regional Leader shall be elected for one year or two years, whichever is necessary to maintain the balance of elections on a rotating basis.
- (f) Membership on the Executive Presbytery shall be by specific election to the office of Regional Leader, except as noted elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- (g) A person may not serve as a Regional Leader and an Area Leader at the same time.
- (h) A report on all election results shall be given for each Region by the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) at the NWMN Annual Conference and if ratification is required, a brief biographical sketch shall be provided for each nominee.

**(4) Area Leaders:**

- (a) Each Area shall elect a qualified minister to the office of Area Leader every even-numbered year. The election shall be held at the annual Area Business Meeting, not less than forty-five days prior to the NWMN Annual Conference.
- (b) The Area Leadership Team shall appoint two ministers from the Area who together with them shall serve as the Nominating Team (excluding the incumbent Area Leader who may be eligible for re-election) and as such shall be chaired by the Regional Leader. They will lead an open nomination process as outlined in the Operational Manual.
- (c) The Nominating Team shall seek and interview candidates who may have the gifts, calling, aptitude and experience necessary for the position. They shall nominate one or more candidates who are qualified and willing to serve.
- (d) At the Area Business Meeting, nominees for Area Leader shall be presented by the Area Leadership Team and shall be voted upon by secret ballot. All names thus presented shall be voted upon by secret ballot until one nominee shall have received a two-thirds vote of ballots cast. In the event there is no election, the Nominating Team shall caucus for the purpose of nominating one or more candidates to be presented to a duly called Area Business Meeting.
- (e) The term of office shall be for two years, commencing at the time of the NWMN Annual Conference.
- (f) The term of office shall not exceed three consecutive two-year terms, but Area Leaders may be re-elected after one year has elapsed.

- (g) There shall be diversity on the Network Presbytery (including but not limited to gender and culture). To accomplish this, there may be up to six additional members, appointed as follows:
  - i. Potential candidates shall be interviewed by the Corporate Officers for gifts, qualifications, and abilities.
  - ii. The Corporate Officers shall present two or three names of qualified individuals for each position to the Executive Presbytery for consideration and selection.
  - iii. One individual for each open position shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Presbytery for ratification by two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery.
  - iv. Appointed members shall serve two year terms, and may be eligible for reappointment once after serving the initial two year term.
- (h) Newly selected Area Leaders shall be introduced at the NWMN Annual Conference in session.

**(5) Area Leadership Team Members:**

- (a) Makeup of Area Leadership Teams shall be as outlined in the NWMN Operational Manual.
- (b) Nomination: A list of nominees who are qualified to serve as team members shall be submitted by the Area Leadership Team and Area Leader to the NWMN Corporate Officers. Upon their approval the nominees shall then be submitted to the Area for election.
- (c) Election: Team members shall be elected at the annual Area Business Meeting. They shall be elected one at a time. The nominees presented shall be voted on by secret ballot until a nominee shall have a majority of votes cast.
- (d) The term of office shall be for two years, commencing at the time of the NWMN Annual Conference.
- (e) The term of office shall not exceed three consecutive two-year terms, but Area Leadership Team Members may be re-elected after one year has elapsed.

**(6) General Presbyters: (See applicable current General Council Bylaws)**

- (a) The Network Presbytery shall nominate one General Presbyter (pastoral position) to be submitted to the upcoming NWMN Annual Conference for a ratification vote. Ratification at the NWMN Annual Conference shall be by two-thirds majority of all ballots cast.
- (b) The term of office of the person serving in the pastoral position shall be for two years, commencing at the time of election.
- (c) The term of office of the person serving in the pastoral position shall not exceed three consecutive two year terms, but he or she may be re-elected

after one year has elapsed.

- (d) The term of office of the Network Leader and the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) shall be concurrent with the term of their elected office.

**(7) General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter: (See current applicable General Council Bylaws)**

- (a) Because General Council asks for two nominees, one of which shall not be a Network Official, the NWMN Network Leader by virtue of his or her office will automatically be one of the nominees from the NWMN.
- (b) For the other required person, nominees for the General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbytery candidate may be submitted by any Area Leadership Team to the Executive Presbytery of the NWMN. All names thus presented shall be considered by the Executive Presbytery. They shall select the other General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter nominee from among those thus nominated, or recommend re-nominating a qualified incumbent for submission to the Network Presbytery for nomination and recommendation to the NWMN Annual Conference in session.
- (c) The Network Presbytery shall consider those thus nominated and select one nominee to be submitted to the upcoming NWMN Annual Conference for a ratification vote. Ratification at the NWMN Annual Conference shall be by two-thirds majority of all ballots cast.
- (d) Ministers with potential national leadership stature shall be given prime consideration as the nominees from the NWMN for this office.

**Section 6. Vacancies**

- A. **Conditions:** Vacancies can occur for the following conditions: Death, resignation, disability, removal for cause, or dereliction of duty.
  - (1) **Death or resignation:** Upon the death or resignation of any elected official or leader, his or her office shall be declared vacant and the process outlined for replacement shall begin.
  - (2) **Disability:** In the event any elected official or leader becomes temporarily or permanently disabled for a period exceeding one hundred twenty days, and unable to fulfill the duties of his or her office, his or her office shall be declared vacant by action of the Network Presbytery unless special circumstances warrant otherwise. If special circumstances warrant otherwise, a qualified person or persons shall be appointed to fulfill the required duties until the issue is resolved.
  - (3) **Removal for cause:** In the event any elected official or leader no longer meets the qualifications listed for his or her office, he or she shall be released from office for cause by action of two-thirds majority of the Network Presbytery in session and the office declared vacant.

- (4) **Dereliction of duty:** In the event any elected official or leader is found derelict in his or her duties, he or she may be removed from office by two-thirds vote of the Network Presbytery in session.

**B. Corporate Officers:**

- (1) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the **Network Leader** one hundred twenty or more days prior to the next NWMN Annual Conference, the Network Presbytery shall call a special session of the NWMN for the purpose of electing a Network Leader and filling any other office that may become vacant as a result of the special election. If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred twenty days prior to the next NWMN Annual Conference, a special election shall be held for this purpose at the NWMN Annual Conference.
- (2) **The Associate Network Leader (Vice-President position)** shall serve as the acting Network Leader until a new Network Leader is elected in either the specially called session of the NWMN or until the next NWMN Annual Conference.
- (3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of either **Associate Network Leader position** one hundred twenty or more days prior to the next NWMN Annual Conference, the Network Presbytery shall call a special session of the NWMN for the purpose of electing a replacement and filling any other office that may become vacant as a result of the special election. If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred twenty days prior to the next NWMN Annual Conference, a special election shall be held for this purpose at the NWMN Annual Conference.
- (4) In the event vacancies occur simultaneously, or near simultaneously, in both the **Network Leader** and the **Associate Network Leader (Vice-President position)** offices, the **Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position)** shall immediately call for a meeting of the Network Presbytery, providing five days notice, which may be shortened by mutual agreement. If he or she is unable to act, the Executive Presbytery shall call for a meeting of the Network Presbytery to appoint someone as the acting **Network Leader** until a **Network Leader** is elected.

- C. **Regional Leaders:** If a Regional Leader ceases to reside in the Region in which he or she was elected to represent, his or her office shall automatically become vacant. If the office becomes vacant for any reason, the Executive Presbytery shall appoint, within thirty days, a minister to fill the vacancy. The Network Presbytery shall ratify such appointment via E-Poll or similar means with a two-thirds majority needed to ratify. The members of that Region shall then be notified of such appointment.

- D. **Area Leaders:** If an Area Leader ceases to reside or minister in the Area which he or she was elected to represent, his or her office shall automatically become vacant. If the office becomes vacant for any reason, the members of that Area shall take a non-binding advisory (confidential) “straw-ballot” within thirty days, as a basis for consideration by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall reserve the right to appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy, regardless

of the advisory “straw ballot” within thirty days of having received the results of the “straw ballot.” The members of that Area shall then be notified of such appointment.

- E. **Area Leadership Team Members:** If a vacancy occurs for any reason, and if it occurs more than ninety days from the next Area Business Meeting, the members of the Area Leadership Team shall appoint a successor who shall be ratified at the next Area Business Meeting. If it occurs within ninety days of the next Area Business Meeting, the Area shall wait to fill the vacancy until that time in the same manner as prescribed for election in Article V. Section 5.C (5).
- F. **General Presbyters:** If a General Presbyter ceases to reside in the NWMN, or if the one who has been elected from among the pastors leaves the pastoral ministry, his or her office shall automatically become vacant. If the office (pastoral position) becomes vacant for any reason, the Executive Presbytery shall appoint a qualified minister to fill the vacancy with two-thirds majority ratification via E-Poll or similar means to the Network Presbytery prior to the next meeting of the General Presbytery. The members of the NWMN shall then be notified of such appointment.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Board of Directors Meetings**

Board of Director Meetings (Network Presbytery or Executive Presbytery) shall be held as outlined in the NWMN Operational Manual. Special meetings of either the Network Presbytery or Executive Presbytery may be called by the Corporate Officers with five days’ notice required, which may be waived in an emergency by mutual consent.

Any action required of which may be taken at a meeting of directors, or a team thereof, may be taken by means of a conference telephone or similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. In addition, a special motion or motions may be voted on by mail or E-Poll, provided all members have the ability to receive the E-Poll and all members respond.

### **Section 2. Annual Conference**

The NWMN Annual Conference shall convene at a suitable location sometime during the month of April each year, with the date for the next Annual Conference being established and announced prior to or during the current year’s Annual Conference.

### **Section 3. Voting Constituency**

- A. **The voting constituency** shall consist of (1) all NWMN credentialed ministers and (2) all certified delegates of General Council affiliated churches, Network Affiliated churches and Cooperative Churches who are both registered and present at a duly-called business meeting of the NWMN.
- B. **A roster** shall be kept during the NWMN Annual Conference of those registered and in attendance. Regular reports of the roster may be made to those in attendance. At the appropriate time, the voting constituency may vote to close the roster.

#### **Section 4. Church Delegates**

- A. Each **church delegate** to the NWMN Annual Conference must be twenty-one years of age, or over, and must be duly appointed by the local church he or she represents, certified by the signature of the pastor or church secretary. Whenever possible, the delegate should be a member of the church other than a member of the pastor's household.
- B. **Expenses** of the pastor and the delegate to attend the NWMN Annual Conference should be defrayed by the church that they represent.
- C. Each delegate to the NWMN Annual Conference is encouraged to present a **full report** of the meeting to his or her church.

#### **Section 5. Rules of Order**

In order to expedite the work of the NWMN and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The parliamentary authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, and it shall apply when it is not inconsistent with these Bylaws, and any special rules of order that the NWMN may adopt in the future. Provided however, the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) is empowered to decide on any procedural question or issue that arises during any meeting and the Associate Network Leader's (Secretary-Treasurer position) decision shall be final and non-appealable regarding any procedural issue.

#### **Section 6. Order of Business**

- A. The order of business for the NWMN Annual Conference shall be:
  - (1) Reports
  - (2) Unfinished Business
  - (3) Elections
  - (4) New Business
  - (5) Adjournment
- B. The above order of business may be suspended when deemed necessary by a two-thirds vote of the NWMN in session.

#### **Section 7. Quorum**

All credentialed ministers and church delegates of the NWMN who are present and registered at a duly-called meeting shall constitute a quorum. For meetings of the Network Presbytery or Executive Presbytery, a minimum quorum of one half of qualified members shall be necessary.

#### **Section 8. Minutes**

The minutes of the proceedings of the past NWMN Annual Conference shall be reviewed and approved by the Network Presbytery in their next meeting following the NWMN Annual Conference and distributed to the membership via printed or electronic means. All other official board meetings and authorized teams shall have minutes recorded of official business action taken and such minutes approved at the following regular

meeting.

## **Section 9. Resolutions**

- A. All proposed resolutions shall be submitted in writing and signed by the sponsor(s) to the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) by January 1 preceding the NWMN Annual Conference. Prepared resolutions shall be submitted in as nearly a finished form as possible in both digital and written format. Amendments to these Bylaws must be presented to the Resolutions Team, and worded in such a way as to clearly call attention to areas of change with specific deletions and/or additions.
- B. Resolutions may be submitted by any member of the NWMN as defined in Article IV of these Bylaws or by any duly and directly-elected or appointed body of the NWMN.
- C. Resolutions shall be prepared and forwarded to every church and minister no later than thirty days prior to the date of the NWMN Annual Conference.
- D. Emergency resolutions may be submitted to the NWMN by the Resolutions Team upon recommendation of the Network Presbytery or by a two-thirds vote of the NWMN in session, instructing the Resolutions Team to prepare and present resolutions of genuine urgency as determined by the NWMN in session, which may not have come to the attention of the NWMN within the timeframe or parameters of normal Bylaw provisions.
- E. Resolutions rising out of team reports shall meet the January 1 deadline and follow the same procedures as other resolutions, including the advance preparation and notice provisions. However, upon recommendation of the Network Presbytery and a two-thirds vote of the NWMN in session directing it to do so, the Resolutions Team may present resolutions that have not fulfilled these provisions to the NWMN for consideration. Otherwise, such resolutions must come back in due course at the next session of the NWMN.
- F. All proposed resolutions shall have attached to them information indicating their fiscal impact. The Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) or a designated representative shall supply this information to the Resolutions Team for attachment to the proposed resolution. An indication of the source of funding, cost of implementation, and projected annual cost shall be included.

## **Section 10. Balloting**

- A. Except where otherwise prescribed in the Bylaws, any person receiving five votes or less will not be listed as a nominee on any ballot cast. However, all ballots cast will be counted for purpose of determining whether an election has taken place.
- B. Except where otherwise prescribed in the Bylaws, the first ballot cast shall be declared an election ballot if one candidate receives a two-thirds vote of the ballots cast.
- C. When nominations are made by a nominating team and the ballot is printed, other nominations may be made by write-in. All names will be included in ensuing ballots until an election or as prescribed in the Bylaws. All nominees must qualify

according to the Bylaws for the office for which they are nominated.

- D. Unless otherwise prescribed in the Bylaws, if no election occurs after the second ballot (excluding the nomination ballot), the third ballot shall be declared a run-off ballot in which the two persons receiving the highest number of votes on the second ballot shall be voted upon until one shall have obtained the necessary two-thirds majority of total ballots cast.

## **ARTICLE VII. LOCAL CHURCHES (ASSEMBLIES)**

### **Section 1. General Council Governance**

The NWMN hereby incorporates by this reference all of the current General Council Constitution (*current General Council Constitution Article XI*), Bylaws (*current General Council Bylaws, Article VI*), Articles, Rules and Regulations as though set forth in full, whether or not attached, whether existing now or as may be amended in the future.

### **Section 2. Northwest Ministry Network Affiliation**

The local church (other terms: assembly, congregation, or body) is recognized as God-ordained (1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Revelation 1:11-20). Groups of believers accepting The Assemblies of God tenets of faith and associating themselves in local churches, accepting their full personal share of responsibility and maintenance of scriptural order in the local church and having a standard of membership in keeping with scriptural principles, shall be recognized as local churches and eligible for affiliation with the NWMN as Network Affiliated Churches (General Council term: "District Council Affiliated Assemblies"). Network Affiliated Churches shall be governed under rules as determined by the NWMN leadership and outlined in The NWMN Operational Manual.

### **Section 3. General Council Affiliation**

A General Council affiliated church (assembly) is one which has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from General Council (*for requirements see current General Council Constitution Article XI, and General Council Bylaws Article VI*).

### **Section 4. Cooperating Churches**

Provision shall be made for the status of a cooperating church, which would allow churches that subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of General Council to enter into a cooperative status with the Network Presbytery and General Council on a temporary basis (four year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the NWMN in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the NWMN and General Council.

On a periodic basis the Network Presbytery may review the status of the participating church to determine if continued cooperation is appropriate. Procedures and forms for affiliation as a cooperative church are provided for in the NWMN Organizational Manual.

### **Section 5. Right of Self Government**

We recognize that each local church has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its Living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official



board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its approved constitution and/or approved Bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property in its own right, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.

## **Section 6. Sovereignty**

The fact that a local church is affiliated in association with the NWMN, or General Council, shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The local church shall recognize that the NWMN or General Council has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct. When in need of counsel or advice, the local church may appeal to the NWMN for help. It may appeal a decision by the NWMN to the Executive Presbytery of General Council when there is a question whether or not the church has received proper help from the NWMN. When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Executive Presbytery, either by the local church or by the Network Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery of General Council as provided in General Council Constitution and Bylaws (*currently Constitution Article XI, Section 1.e also see current Bylaws Article VI, Section 4.c*).

## **Section 7. Order**

Each affiliated local church shall be set in order, meaning the church shall have proper Scriptural and legal governance documents and follow guidelines for incorporation as required by civil law. Each local church shall cooperate in the work of the NWMN and shall support the NWMN organization. Being officially affiliated, they may send a delegate to the NWMN Annual Conference. Legal liability and governance of satellite churches and church plants shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring church or organization within guidelines set forth in the NWMN Organizational and/or Operational Manuals.

## **Section 8. Rules Governing Disaffiliation**

It shall generally be considered a breach of ministerial ethics for an Assemblies of God minister to lead an established Assemblies of God congregation away from affiliation with the Assemblies of God. To do so may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with General Council and NWMN Bylaws, which will be determined by the NWMN credentials team.

In the event that any General Council affiliated church or Network Affiliated church located within the NWMN shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall be considering disaffiliation from the Assemblies of God, the pastor or board shall invite the NWMN Corporate Officers to participate in a specially called leadership or board meeting to discuss the matter. If the differences cannot be resolved and the leadership or board continues to pursue disaffiliation, a duly called church Business Meeting shall be announced to the membership and congregation for not less than two Sundays prior to the meeting. Said meeting shall be called for the express purpose of giving the NWMN Corporate Officers the opportunity to present the case for continued Assemblies of God affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the local church.

## **Section 9. Missions Participation**

Local churches are expected to have an interest in and support missions locally, in the NWMN, through Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and the Assemblies of God World Missions.

## **Section 10. Northwest Ministry Network Supervision**

- A. Conditions: When a General Council affiliated church is no longer able to fill the corporate offices of the church with scripturally-qualified members, or meet its ongoing financial obligations, or falls below twenty members, or fails to meet any other requirements for General Council affiliation (*see General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1.a.*), the NWMN may exercise its prerogative to bring that church under Network Supervision.
- B. Purpose: The purpose of Network Supervision is not punitive, but meant for purposes of re-establishing congregational health. At such time as the church has returned to sufficient strength it may re-apply with the NWMN and General Council for reinstatement to General Council affiliated status.
- C. Process: Before such action is taken, investigation shall be made by the NWMN Officials in consultation with the local church pastor and official board to determine if the above conditions are present. If so, the church shall be reverted to Network Affiliated status. Whenever possible, a meeting between congregational members and NWMN Officials shall take place to explain fully the process of Network Supervision and implement a plan for restorative church health.
- D. Appeal: A General Council affiliated church pastor or official board may appeal the decision to revert to Network Affiliated status under procedures as outlined in these Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6 and related NWMN or General Council governance documents.
- E. Requirements: Churches that revert to Network Affiliated status must:
  - (1) Dissolve their Board.
  - (2) Suspend their Constitution and Bylaws.
  - (3) Function under the NWMN Operational Manual guidelines for Network Affiliated churches.

## **ARTICLE VIII. LOCAL CHURCH INTERVENTION**

### **Section 1. Principles of Interdependency**

While the right of a local sovereign church to self-government is a basic General Council privilege, it is also recognized that the local church has a responsibility to the NWMN and General Council, and both have a responsibility to the local church. All three are interdependent, and none is completely independent.

Since the approval of a church is the prerogative of the NWMN or General Council, and is indicated by the issuance of certificates of affiliation, the NWMN has the right to request a meeting for counsel, mediation, or intervention with a local church as outlined in this section. Conversely, the local church has the same right to request such of the NWMN. Before mediation and intervention procedures are taken, there shall be evidence that the

principles of Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19 are being applied.

## **Section 2. Circumstances Requiring Investigation**

Circumstances which may require counsel, mediation, or intervention may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Division resulting in disruption;
- B. Assumption of dictatorial authority by the pastor or the official board;
- C. Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership;
- D. Reported violations of ministerial ethics;
- E. Deviation or departure from the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths, principles, and practices;
- F. Attempt to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God fellowship.

## **Section 3. Definition of Terms**

- A. **Counsel:** Idea or opinion exchange for advice or guidance.
- B. **Mediation:** To resolve or settle differences by acting as an intermediary agent between conflicting parties. This may include various strategies such as, but not limited to: peacemaking teams, mediation agreements, mutual compromise, or binding arbitration. All mediation shall be carried out in the spirit of Romans 12:17-21.
- C. **Intervention:** To come in or between to help or modify. In this Article, the term "intervention" shall mean the giving of counsel and advice, offering the services of the NWMN and the attendance of NWMN Corporate Officers at meetings of the official board and church membership for the purpose of better understanding of the situation and presenting the views and viewpoints of the NWMN on the situation. There is no intent that this Article should in any way violate the sovereignty of the local church or authorize the NWMN to take control of the local church without following due process as outlined in these Bylaws and other NWMN official documents.
- D. **Ecclesiastical Matters:** Matters involving local church governance (including disputes between members or leaders) are strictly viewed from a biblical and ecclesiastical perspective. Under no circumstances would the NWMN initiate nor advise local church disputes be brought to civil courts for the redress of grievances (1 Corinthians 6:1-8).

## **Section 4. Right to Initiate**

- A. **Northwest Ministry Network:** The NWMN shall have the right to initiate a meeting with the leadership of any local church whenever circumstances warrant as described in this Article, Section 2.
- B. **The Local Church:** The local church may initiate a meeting with the NWMN leadership for purposes of counsel, mediation, or intervention at the request of the pastor, majority vote of church board, or petition signed by 30% of active voting members of the local church.

## **Section 5. Procedures for Counsel**

When in need of assistance or advice, the pastor or leadership of the local church may invite the NWMN Corporate Officers to offer counsel, or the NWMN may request a meeting with the pastor, board, or members to provide unsolicited counsel and advice at any time as the circumstances may require.

## **Section 6. Procedures for Mediation**

When in need of mediation, the local church may invite the NWMN Corporate Officers to mediate, or the NWMN has the right to initiate a meeting at the discretion of the NWMN Corporate Officers, Regional Leader and Area Leader.

## **Section 7. Procedures for Intervention**

- A. When in need of intervention, the local church may invite the NWMN Corporate Officers to intervene, or the NWMN has the right to initiate a meeting as outlined in Section 4A above.
- B. In the event the circumstances requiring additional intervention remain unresolved after following procedures for counsel, mediation or intervention, and upon written notice from the NWMN, the affected local church's Constitution and/or Bylaws and/or Articles of Incorporation shall within ten days of such notice become inoperative and replaced by governance and Bylaws as prescribed by the current and applicable General Council Bylaws and applicable NWMN Bylaws and/or Operational Manual policies regarding Network Affiliated churches. Said church shall then remain under the supervision of the NWMN until such time as the Network Presbytery decides that the matter requiring additional intervention has been resolved and that the church is capable of governing itself.
- C. A General Council affiliated church pastor or official board may appeal any decision of the NWMN regarding local church intervention as outlined in these Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6 and related NWMN or General Council governance documents.

## **Section 8. Precedence of Bylaws for Sovereign Churches**

Approved Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and/or Bylaws of sovereign assemblies take precedence over the Bylaws of the NWMN except when such are in violation of or contradictory to NWMN Bylaws or General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

# **ARTICLE IX. MINISTRY**

## **Section 1. General Council Governance**

The NWMN hereby incorporates by this reference all of the current General Council Bylaws (*Article VII*), Articles, Rules and Regulations as though set forth in full, whether or not attached, whether existing now or as may be amended in the future.

## **Section 2. Ministerial Credentials and Procedures**

- A. The NWMN agrees to be governed by the current applicable General Council Bylaws (*Article VII*) in relation to all levels of credentialing by General Council.

Local Church credentials and NWMN credentialing guidelines shall be at the discretion of the Network Presbytery and included in the current NWMN Operational Manual.

- B. Credentialing matters shall be under the oversight of the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) and his or her office staff.
- C. Ministerial credentials shall be issued upon the condition that suspension of a disciplined minister and/or dismissal or withdrawal of the credential in a manner consistent with current General Council and NWMN provisions for such shall not give the disciplined minister cause for legal action against the NWMN, General Council nor any officers of said organizations. Credentialing being a matter of ecclesiastical authority, ministers under discipline shall have no right to an attorney present nor legal counsel during any disciplinary proceedings.
- D. The acceptance of a ministerial credential by the NWMN and/or General Council shall be evidence of a waiver by the member of all legal rights of action, causes of action, and all claims and demands against the NWMN, General Council or any other member or officer of the Assemblies of God acting in good faith regarding any dispute concerning ministerial credentials.

### **Section 3. Ministerial Ethics**

- A. **Northwest Ministry Network Ethics Manual and Code of Ethics:** It is required that all NWMN ministers and churches abide by the current Ethics Manual and Code of Ethics as authorized by the NWMN and included in the NWMN Operational Manual. Newly credentialed ministers are required to sign the Code of Ethics and it is recommended that all ministers do so.
- B. **Local Church Office:** All credentialed ministers of the NWMN shall refrain from holding office in local churches (i.e., deacons, trustees, and other lay officials), other than the church they pastor.
- C. **Resignations:** No pastor should resign from a local church without advising the Network Leader, the Area Leader in that Region and the local church board at least a week prior to his or her announcement to the congregation.
- D. **Local Churches:** All credentialed ministers are advised against interfering with the affairs of a local church of which they are not pastoring. Any conduct or communications in such cases which hurt the leadership or local church is disapproved.
- E. **Correspondence:** All correspondence from credentialed ministers which concerns the local church as a whole shall be addressed to the pastor in charge and not private members. Where there is no pastor, all correspondence concerning the work should be addressed to the officials of the local church.
- F. **Evangelists or Itinerating Ministers:** Evangelists and other ministers shall cooperate with the NWMN when ministering within our geographical boundaries.
- G. **New Churches:** Before starting a new church or relocating an established church in any community in the NWMN, any Assemblies of God minister shall receive the written endorsement and shall work in harmony with the NWMN policies and

procedures for church planting.

- H. **Confidentiality:** NWMN Assemblies of God credentialed ministers are obligated to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacity as spiritual counselors and are expected not to disclose such confidential information except with the expressed written consent and permission of the confidant, or in the case of preventing the commission of a crime, or when answering a subpoena from any court with jurisdiction over the NWMN.
- I. **Discipline:** Any minister who shall offend in any of the above matters shall be subject to discipline as outlined in the NWMN Bylaws, current General Council Bylaws (*Article X*), or NWMN Organizational Manual.

#### **Section 4. Financial Responsibility**

- A. To The General Council Headquarters (See applicable General Council Bylaws)
- B. Assemblies of God ministers shall be expected to support the national headquarters as may be required by the current General Council Bylaws.
- C. To the NWMN General Administration Fund: All NWMN ministers shall be expected to support the NWMN financially with their tithe (10%) on all earned income, except (1) appointed world missionaries whose financial support shall conform to the Assemblies of God World Missions Bylaws, (2) General Council appointed U.S. Missionaries, Chi Alpha personnel, and chaplains whose financial support shall conform to the corresponding standard of their governing bodies, (3) senior retired ministers who reached this status on or before January 1, 2011, and (4) approved disabled ministers.

#### **Section 5. Renewal of Credentials**

- A. Each minister who has not complied with the financial policy of General Council and the NWMN shall send a statement of explanation with the annual application for renewal.
- B. The Network Presbytery shall be authorized to establish and administer any method of financial accountability that they deem appropriate.
- C. Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If a minister's contributions are in arrears, an opportunity shall be given to meet the deficit at the time of renewal.

#### **Section 6. Retirement**

The NWMN recommends that the ministers participate in the federal Social Security program, The General Council Ministers Benefit Association, or a private retirement fund, and that each church be urged to share the cost of these programs for its ministers.

#### **Section 7. Ministers Retirement Funds**

- A. All NWMN credentialed ministers are encouraged to enroll in the Ministers Benefit Association or similar ministers tax-sheltered retirement program.
- B. The Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) shall be authorized

to contribute from the general administration fund and deposit quarterly in each minister's tax-sheltered account an amount equivalent to twenty percent of each minister's tithes/dues received by the NWMN. The minister may also elect that this amount be designated to retire educational debt associated with his ministerial training in accordance with the current NWMN Educational Debt Assistance Program policy.

- C. Participation in the NWMN retirement program is voluntary, therefore member ministers may choose for reasons of personal conviction not to participate in the program. Funds generated from the amount equal to twenty percent tithes/dues that are not directed as such shall be designated for benevolent (compassion fund) purposes in the NWMN.
- D. The NWMN shall have no obligation to make any contribution to or for the benefit of any minister who has not established an account for retirement purposes or who has signed an exemption request to waive the right to be included in the NWMN Retirement program.

## **ARTICLE X. CORPORATE RESOURCES**

### **Section 1. Northwest Ministry Network Financial Procedures**

- A. **Need:** The work of the NWMN, in its oversight and development of the Network, incurs considerable expense, including: (1) financial support of the full-time NWMN officials and other staff needed in maintaining its work, (2) maintaining NWMN operations, (3) taking care of office expenses, travel, and mailing expenses, and (4) subsidizing departmental and NWMN ministries.
- B. **Principles and Sources of Support**
  - (1) The NWMN holds that the Biblical principle for supporting the work of the Lord is the principle of tithes and offerings.
  - (2) The NWMN recognizes the principle of Shared Ministry inasmuch as the ministers and the churches are both members of the NWMN (Article IV of these Bylaws) and are therefore responsible to contribute to the general administration fund of the NWMN.
  - (3) Tithes/Dues: It is therefore expected that each credentialed minister will send, monthly, to the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position), the tithes/dues (as prescribed in Article IX, Section 4. C).
  - (4) Shared Ministry: It is also suggested that each church will send, monthly, two percent of its undesignated general fund gross income to the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) for the general administration fund. World Ministries credit will be given for contributions thus made by the churches.
- C. **Reports:** The Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) shall give each minister a report of his or her contributions to the general administration fund as of October 31 each year. An annual report of contributions shall be given to each minister on or before January 31 following the end of the calendar year for

which the report is given. The Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) shall also give each pastor and each church (directed to its treasurer) reports of the church's Shared Ministry contributions at the same time.

D. **Budgeting and Administration:** The Network Presbytery is authorized to approve the annual budget and oversee its implementation.

E. **Fiscal Oversight:**

(1) The Finances of the NWMN shall be the responsibility of and under the oversight of The Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) and Director of Finance.

(2) The NWMN shall have a Finance Team and Investment Team. Details of appointment, organization, scope and responsibility shall be outlined in the Organizational, Operational Manuals of the NWMN.

(3) The Finance Team Chairperson shall, by virtue of his or her office, serve as a member of the Network Presbytery.

F. **Fiscal Year:** The NWMN fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year.

## **Section 2. Audit**

The finances of the NWMN shall be audited annually, and the report of said audit shall be made at the NWMN Annual Conference. A Certified Public Accountant shall be employed for the audit.

## **Section 3. Indemnification**

The NWMN shall indemnify, exonerate, reimburse or defend any present or former director, officer, employee affiliate, agent or contractor of this corporation for expense, claims, liabilities, indebtedness, penalties, danger or injury incurred by or caused by them in such capacity except for their own negligence, knowingly unauthorized acts or defalcation not ratified, confirmed or adopted or the benefit thereof received by this corporation.

## **ARTICLE XI. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

The NWMN hereby incorporates by this reference all of the current General Council Bylaws (*Article IX*), Articles, Rules and Regulations as though set forth in full, whether or not attached, whether existing now or as may be amended in the future.

## **ARTICLE XII. DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION**

The NWMN hereby incorporates by this reference all of the current General Council Bylaws (*Article X*), Articles, Rules and Regulations as though set forth in full, whether or not attached, whether existing now or as may be amended in the future regarding discipline and restoration of ministers. Ministerial discipline shall be handled through the office of the Network Leader who may delegate these responsibilities as needed. The General Council handbook or handbooks and guidelines on ministerial discipline shall provide the basis for



ministerial discipline in the NWMN. The goal of ministerial discipline shall be redemptive, not punitive.

## **ARTICLE XIII. NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY**

### **Section 1. Administration**

- A. The NWMN, together with other participating Networks/Districts, shall share in the policies, administration, and support of Northwest University.
- B. The Network Leader, the Associate Network Leader (Vice-President position) and the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position), shall be members of the Northwest University Board of Directors if the Northwest University Bylaws call for such membership.

### **Section 2. Finances**

The NWMN shall give its wholehearted support to Northwest University and shall involve itself in financing its operational needs in the following ways:

- A. **Churches:** Local churches are encouraged to support Northwest University financially and otherwise, to include gifts for scholarships, regular operations, and capital development. Such contributions may be sent directly to the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) for disbursement to Northwest University.
- B. **Budget:** The Network Presbytery shall provide annually for a contribution from the NWMN budget to Northwest University.

## **ARTICLE XIV. AFFILIATED CORPORATIONS**

### **Section 1. Governing Provisions**

Each affiliated corporation shall adopt its own Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The NWMN may require that an affiliate corporation adopt corporate documents in a form that has been approved by the Network Presbytery.

### **Section 2. Funding**

Before establishing or authorizing an affiliated corporation the NWMN shall make certain that suitable means of financing the activities and caring for the expenses of the corporation are in place.

### **Section 3. Amenability**

Each affiliated corporation shall be subject to the general supervision of the Network Presbytery.

## **ARTICLE XV. PROPERTY**

### **Section 1. Ownership of Property**

The NWMN shall be authorized to own and hold such property, real or chattel, as may be necessary for the operations of the organization as a non-profit religious entity. No property shall be bought, held, or conveyed for the personal enjoyment of any individual.

### **Section 2. Conveyance of Property**

- A. All NWMN corporately owned property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the district, namely: The Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God, d/b/a The Northwest Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God.
- B. No real property of the NWMN which is held for use of the entire NWMN, shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the transaction first being authorized by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular or special session of the Network Presbytery which has been properly called. Other properties may be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated as the need arises, when properly authorized. In those cases where the NWMN shares joint title with a local church, the Corporate Officers of the NWMN along with the local Area Leader may, when deemed appropriate, execute and sign the necessary documents of reconveyance. Furthermore, in those cases where properties are not held for use of the entire NWMN, the Corporate Officers are authorized to execute and sign the necessary documents after receiving the consent of a majority of the Executive Presbytery.
- C. The Network Leader as President, the Associate Network Leader (Vice-President position) as Vice-President, or the Associate Network Leader (Secretary-Treasurer position) shall be authorized to execute and, deliver such conveyance, lease, mortgage, or deed which has been duly authorized by a vote of the membership or by a vote of the Executive Presbytery or the Network Presbytery as the case may be.

## **ARTICLE XVI. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

### **Section 1. Beneficiary**

In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of this Network, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived thereby for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 2. Disposition**

In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the NWMN, its Board of Directors (or Trustees) shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions within one year after the date of such dissolution. If such transfer is

not made within the time prescribed above or if General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, the disposition thereof shall be made to Northwest University of Kirkland, Washington. If Northwest University shall be unable or unwilling to accept the said transfer, the disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the NWMN headquarters office is located, provided that in such a case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to the organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

## **ARTICLE XVII. RECORDS**

The NWMN shall, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 24.03.135 (Washington State) or TITLE 30, CORPORATIONS CHAPTER 3 IDAHO NONPROFIT CORPORATION ACT 30-3-131 (Idaho State), maintain an open records policy for members. However, members' right to access such records shall not include records containing personal information of a private nature about any specific individual. Such limitations include, but may not be limited to, ministerial, credential and personnel files, disciplinary records, individual giving, or compensation records.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made by Resolution (as specified in Article VI, Section 9 of these Bylaws) at any NWMN Annual Conference or special meeting of the NWMN. A two-thirds majority of votes cast shall be necessary for adoption.

5/18/15 Update DD