



Bylaws

- **Preamble**
- **Article One – Name and Offices**
- **Article Two – Prerogatives and Purposes**
- **Article Three – Affiliation**
- **Article Four – Tenets of Faith**
- **Article Five – Ordinances**
- **Article Six – Membership**
- **Article Seven – Government**
- **Article Eight – Congregation**
- **Article Nine – Trustees of the Corporation**
- **Article Ten – Senior Pastor of the Church/ President of the Corporation**
- **Article Eleven – Overseers**
- **Article Twelve – Elders**
- **Article Thirteen – Officers**
- **Article Fourteen – Business Practices**
- **Article Fifteen – Property**
- **Article Sixteen – Church Ministry**
- **Article Seventeen – Church Discipline**
- **Article Eighteen – Amendment of Bylaws**

By Laws

Preamble

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a local body of Christ—a group of people unified (Ephesians 4:1-3) under Christ, who represent and reflect Him to the world (1 Corinthians 12:12-17) We, the members of this body/assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE ONE. NAME and Offices

NAME: The name of this assembly shall be Stockbridge Assembly of God.

OFFICES: The principal office of Stockbridge Assembly of God, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Church/Corporation, shall be located at the address set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Incorporation, as the Board of Trustees may determine.

ARTICLE TWO. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council affiliated assembly shall be:

1. To Govern

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

2. To Acquire and Dispose

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

3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony, and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

4. To Cooperate

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

5. To Recognize

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

ARTICLE THREE. AFFILIATION

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

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the Elder Board, or a petition signed by at least 1/3 (33%) of the active voting members of the assembly according to Art 6, Sec 1. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements for a pastor to those standards set by the District Council and the General Council.

By its affiliation, the assembly – directors, officers, and members – agree that no provision of these Bylaws shall be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of both the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect of hereafter amended.

ARTICLE FOUR. TENETS OF FAITH

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (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 Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

The Adorable Godhead

(a) Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as on 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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the Godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not **from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost 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 Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3,7; 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 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

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

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,19; 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 Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; 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 Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12: 28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exist 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 threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) 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 15:51,51).

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 burn 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 dwells righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21 and 22).

17. Biblical Marriage

1. We believe God defines marriage as the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. (Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–9; Mark 10:5–9; Ephesians 5:31–33).

2. Two sexes, male and female, are required to complete the divine image in humankind. “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). Neither male nor female alone may procreate the race and fulfill the divine purposes. Therefore, marriage is to be heterosexual. The institution of marriage firmly is set within the creation of humans as male and female. God’s imperative is, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). Homosexual and lesbian unions throughout the biblical record are judged to be sinful (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9- 11). There is no biblical precedent for any homosexual liaison that may be termed “marriage.”

3. The Assemblies of God believes that God created humankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. The Fellowship supports the dignity of individual persons affirming their biological sex and discouraging any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex—including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or nonbinary “genderqueer” acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:26–28; Romans 1:26–32; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

ARTICLE 5. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism in Water

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

Section 2. Holy Communion

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

ARTICLE 6. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be granted to those who:

- A) sense a call to Stockbridge Assembly.
- B) strive to live a life of purity and holy conduct as prescribed by the Bible.
- C) contribute financially to the Corporation (Stockbridge Assembly). Membership is granted and recognized with voting powers once a person has been in the church long enough to receive an annual contributions statement that reflects consistent giving for a six month period. A contributions statement is the certificate of membership. Member's voting rights are described in Article 8, relating to ratification for the Board of Elders and to the selection of a new Senior Pastor. Members shall have no other voting rights.

Section 2. Membership will be terminated when:

- A) a member's conduct and lifestyle is violating Biblical standards and he/she refuses correction.
- B) a member leaves the church as a result of relocation or other reason.
- C) a member requests to be removed.
- D) a year passes without any record of contribution.

Section 3. Pastor and Spouse

By virtue of office the pastor and pastoral staff shall be considered an active voting member of the church during their tenure. The pastors' spouses shall become an active member simultaneously with the pastors.

Section 4. Privacy

The Corporation shall diligently watch to keep all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in connection with this corporation. The corporation must not disclose any records that may compromise information about member's attendance, membership status, giving, and counseling records.

ARTICLE 7. GOVERNMENT

Stockbridge Assembly seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in all its decisions. The corporation is governed by its Congregation, the Trustees of the Corporation, the office of the Senior Pastor, and the Overseers. The Congregation determines the spiritual tone, strength and direction of the church by wisely selecting the Senior Pastor (Article 8). The Trustees are to serve the church by setting policy in the management of the church Corporation and making the major financial decisions for the church (Article 9). The Senior Pastor's office is responsible to oversee the day-to-day ministry of the church (Article 10), and the Board of Overseers are to protect the church through counsel and prayer, and, if required, the discipline of the Senior Pastor

ARTICLE 8. CONGREGATION

Section 1. General Authority to Select a New Senior Pastor

In the event that a new Senior Pastor is needed by the church, two methods are provided for the Congregational selection of a new Senior Pastor. One method involves the participation of the departing Pastor and the other does not.

Section 2: Congregational Process with the Participation of the Departing Pastor.

(Para. 1) Departing Pastor Participates in Replacement

If the senior Pastor is in good standing with the church and is removing himself because of retirement or relocation, the following is the selection process:

(Para. 2) Congregational Vote

The Senior Pastor may choose up to two candidates. The first candidate is to speak in three or more of the primary services of the church. Then the Senior Pastor is to formally recommend this candidate in a meeting of the membership. For any meeting of the membership for pastoral selection, members are to bring their contribution records from the previous year and display them at the door to verify membership. At that meeting, the departing Senior Pastor and the candidate are to leave. Then the Secretary / Treasurer is to conduct a secret ballot vote, and, with a minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present, the candidate shall be accepted. If that ballot fails, the second candidate which the Senior Pastor has chosen is afforded the same opportunity. If the second candidate ballot fails, the process goes to section 3, Para.2

Section 3. Congregational Process Without Departing Pastor's Participation.

(Para. 1) Departing Pastor Unavailable

If the Senior Pastor is removed by the Overseers, is deceased, cannot or will not participate in the selection process of the new Senior Pastor for any reason, the following shall be the process for selecting a new Senior Pastor:

(Para. 2) Meeting of the Membership

The Secretary / Treasurer or another person appointed by the Board of trustees is to immediately call a meeting of the membership by making an announcement during the primary weekend church service. The meeting is to be held in the church building eight days following the primary service in the Evening. At the meeting of the membership, a Pastoral Selection Committee of nine people will be elected by the membership, to include three men and three women from the general membership and the three most senior full-time pastoral staff members. If there are not three full-time pastoral staff members, the membership may elect for those positions trustworthy people who are familiar with the day-to-day work of the church. The committee itself is to vote and select a chairperson and co-chairperson. The Congregation may elect additional staff members

to the Pastoral Selection Committee to fill slots designated for the general membership if it chooses.

(Para. 3) Formation of Pastoral Selection Committee

It is the duty of the Pastoral Selection Committee to provide an interim Pastor or speaker(s) to conduct church services. However, neither an interim Pastor nor any guest speaker shall have the corporate powers of the President. (Art. 10, Sec.2, Para.1)

(Para. 4) Congregational Vote

The committee is to recommend a new Senior Pastor as soon as an acceptable candidate is available. That person must be a licensed or ordained minister of the gospel with the Assemblies of God or actively seeking ordination with the Assemblies, and they must be approved by a majority of the Board of Overseers before being presented to the church. Once the committee recommends a Senior Pastor candidate, that person may speak to the church in every service for three weeks, after which time a meeting of the membership shall be publicly called, chaired by the Secretary /Treasurer or by a member of the Board of Trustees selected by that Board. At that meeting church members shall vote by secret ballot either to accept or to reject the pastoral candidate. Trustees and their spouses are to count the ballots. A minimum two thirds (2/3) vote of those attending the meeting is required to elect the next Senior Pastor. If there is not a two-thirds (2/3) majority in favor of the candidate, the Pastoral Selection Committee shall seek another candidate.

(Para. 5) Staff Administration During Transition

During the selection process, members of the church staff are to continue in their positions. It is recommended but not mandatory that staff members make themselves available for resignation any time within a two-year window of the senior pastor's placement. Should staff or financial problems arise, the Secretary/Treasurer has authority to alter the roles of staff members, including dismissal if necessary in their own judgment. Once the new Senior Pastor is in place, he has full authority to select his own staff, replacing existing staff members, if he should choose, according to the severance agreements (Art. 10, Sec. 2, Para. 5).

Section 4. Congregational Process in selecting Elders

(Para. 1) Congregation will ratify Elders selected by Senior Pastor according to Art. 12, Sec 1, Para 5

**ARTICLE 9
TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION
To facilitate the fund the vision and direction of the church**

Section 1. General Powers

The major financial affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Trustees. The Trustees shall have a fiduciary obligation to the Corporation according to Sections 2 and 3 of this Article.

Section 2. Functions

(Para. 1) Provide Facilities

The Trustees vote in accordance with these Bylaws in order to conduct the major business decisions of the Corporation. The trustees oversee the provision of the physical facilities needed by the church body. They also coordinate any construction projects which require a loan.

(Para. 2) Exclusive Authority

The Trustees are the only body within the Corporation or church body with the authority (1) to buy and sell real estate, (2) to borrow money or (3) to secure real estate leases.

(Para. 3) Counsel

The Trustees are to provide counsel to the Senior Pastor regarding the major financial affairs of the church.

(Para. 4) Setting Senior Pastor's Salary

The Board of Trustees is to set the base salary and complete compensation package for the Senior Pastor. Thereafter all increases will be based upon either, an annual COLA adjustment which will be determined by the current inflationary indicator listed by the federal government or, the financial growth percentage listed in the annual financial report of the precious year. The increase is not to exceed 10% increase per year. The Trustees also have the right to increase the Pastors salary and compensation package as often as it deems necessary to reflect new Pastoral/President income levels, financial trends, and information from the church finance office. The Overseers can consult Trustees on Senior Pastors salary.

Section 3. Financial Guidelines

(Para. 1). Monies Available to Trustees

In order to provide for the *physical needs of the church*, the Trustees have available to them 100 percent of all unrestricted monies accumulated in any type of savings accounts (including stocks, bonds, cds, mutual funds, etc.) and all assets in land and property. In addition, the Trustees may direct any expenditures up to 35 percent of the unrestricted income of the church from tithes, offerings, interest and investments. Current undesignated income is to be determined by the undesignated income of the previous year. From 35 percent of church income at the Trustees' disposal, payment must be made on all debts and real estate leases of the Corporation

(Para. 2) Debt Restrictions

Before the Trustees may authorize the church to borrow money or incur a lease obligation, the following conditions must first be met:

1. Minimum 25 percent down.

Should the Trustees choose to borrow money to facilitate the growth and / or work of the church, it must first accumulate 25 percent of the total price of the project for a down payment. This amount may be deemed accumulated based upon (1) the proceeds of amounts previously expended on the project, or (2) amounts previously expended as "principle reduction payments" above minimum required payments on pre-existing loans during the 24 months prior to incurring additional debt. The Trustees reserve the right to adjust the percentages outlines in this document on a per-project basis. A unanimous decision between trustees and president is needed to make these adjustments.

2. Maximum 35 percent payment ceiling

The combined totals of all monthly debt service and real estate lease payments, following the incurring of the indebtedness or lease obligation under consideration, will not exceed 35 percent of the average monthly total income. The percentage shall be based on, but The Trustees reserve the right to adjust the percentages outlines in this document on a per-project basis. A unanimous decision between trustees and president is needed to make these adjustments.

3. Lease to purchase allowance.

If indebtedness is being secured to build a structure that will relieve the church of its need for a leased facility that will be vacated when the new building is completed, then the current lease commitment need not be calculated into the 35 percent expenditure limitation for 18 months. Thus, the church is allowed 18 months for both construction and lease payments that, combined, exceed the 35 percent limit, only if there is compelling assurance that by the end of the 18 month period it is reasonable to expect relief from the burden of the lease payment.

4. Income projections.

The church may not set budgets, meet conditions for borrowing or make any financial commitments based on upward projections of income. If the amount to be borrowed does not exceed \$250,000, then the average monthly total income, which shall include tithes and un-designated offerings of the church shall be determined with reference to the three calendar months immediately preceding the month in which the borrowing resolution is adopted. If the amount to be borrowed is greater than \$250,000, a review of the previous fiscal year shall be conducted and the average monthly total income, which shall include tithes and offerings, shall be determined with reference to the fiscal year immediately preceding the year in which the borrowing resolution is adopted.

(Para. 3) Conflict of Interest

In order to avoid any conflict of interest, all of the following criteria must be met for any business transaction to be made between a Trustee and the Corporation:

1. The Trustee with whom the transaction is being considered is excluded from any discussions for approving the transaction.
2. The Trustees consider competitive bids or comparable valuations.
3. The Trustees act upon and demonstrate that the transaction is in the best interest of the Corporation.
4. The transaction must be fully disclosed in the end-of-year financial statements of the Corporation.

Section 4. Appointment, Number, Term and Qualifications.

(Para. 1) Number and Selection

The Trustees shall consist of between five and seven voting members, who are appointed by the Senior Pastor and approved by the Board of Elders. Trustees may not be employees or staff members of the corporation. All pastoral appointments to the Board of Trustees must be approved by the Board of Elders (article 12). The term of office for each Trustee shall be three years (in accordance with the laws of our state) or until such Trustee resigns from office or from membership in the church, dies or is removed. All Trustees must be selected from the membership of the church.

A Board of Trustee Vice Chairman will be appointed by the Board of Elders.

(Para. 2) Removal of Trustees

The Pastor may dismiss Trustees without cause, but at a rate that does not exceed one dismissal every six months. The Elders are not required to approve pastoral dismissals of Trustees. In the event that the office of pastor is vacant, the Secretary / Treasurer may appoint or dismiss Trustees subject to the same limitations that apply to appointments and dismissals by the Senior Pastor in accordance with this paragraph and Article 9, Section 4, Para. 1.

(Para. 3) Exclusive Roles as Staff or Trustees

Because the Trustees are responsible for the major financial decisions of the church, they must resign their position on the Board if they ever become a staff member, an elder, or take any other paid position within the church. Volunteer work within the church is encouraged, but paid positions may constitute a conflict of interest. Aside from the Senior Pastor, no other staff member should attend a trustee meeting unless expressly invited by the Senior Pastor.

Section 5. Meetings

(Para. 1) Frequency of Meetings

A meeting of the Trustees shall be held at least once a quarter. The Board of Trustees Vice Chairman will call regular meeting and set the agenda for the meeting. The Senior Pastor, or any Trustee, may call a meeting at any time, under the condition that a majority (*more than 50%*) of the Trustees attend the meeting.

(Para. 2) Leadership of Meetings

If at all possible, the Pastor is to attend and lead each Trustees meeting. If not possible, the Secretary / Treasurer shall lead the meeting. If neither the Pastor nor the Secretary / Treasurer is able to lead the meeting, the Trustees must choose a leader for that meeting and proceed in order, with the appointed leader keeping minutes for the record. Any motions passed and recorded in a meeting without the Pastor or the Secretary / Treasurer may not take effect until the following meeting with either the Pastor or the Secretary / Treasurer present when the minutes of the previous meeting are approved.

(Para. 3) Location of Meetings

Any meeting of the trustees may be held at such place or places as shall from time to time be determined by the Trustees or fixed by the Senior Pastor and designated in the notice of the meeting.

(Para. 4) Written Notice of Meetings

Whenever, under the provision of a statute or the Articles of incorporation or these bylaws, a written notice is required to be given to any Trustee: (1) such notice may be given in writing by fax or by mail at such fax number or address as appears on the books of the Corporation and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time the notice is faxed or mailed; (2) the person entitled to waiver either before, at or after the time of the meeting; and (3) the appearance of such person or persons at the meeting shall be equivalent to signing a written waiver of notice.

(Para. 5) Regular Meetings

The Trustees may establish regular meetings. No notice shall be required for any regular meeting.

(Para. 6) Trustee Action Without Meeting

Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Trustees may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action taken is signed by all the Trustees and such action shall be effective as of the date specified in the written consent.

(Para. 7) Teleconferencing

At any meeting of the Trustees, any person may participate in the meeting by telephone provided all members of the Trustees present at the meeting or by telephone can hear and speak to each other. Participation by the telephone shall be equivalent to attending the meeting in person.

(Para. 8) Quorum

A majority (*over* but not at 50%) of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting. The act of a majority of the Trustees shall be the act of the Board of Trustees. In the absence of a quorum at any meeting, a meeting of the Trustees present may adjourn the meeting without further notice until a quorum shall be established.

**ARTICLE 10
SENIOR PASTOR OF THE CHURCH / PRESIDENT
OF THE CORPORATION**

Section 1. The Office of the Senior Pastor

(Para. 1) Dual Role of the Senior Pastor

Because *Stockbridge Assembly* has two complimentary branches, the spiritual body of believers and the legal Corporation, it is the Senior Pastor who administratively bridges the gap between the two branches. Even though the dual roles are sometimes awkward, because the Senior Pastor is primarily responsible for the spiritual life of the church, the Pastor must be in a position corporately to ensure that financial strength is directed toward the ministries of his choice.

(Para. 2) Responsibilities of the Senior Pastor

It is the Pastor's responsibility to:

- Provide Biblical vision and direction for the congregation
- Define and communicate the church's purpose,
- Oversee and coordinate the day-to-day ministry of the Congregation
- Oversee and coordinate the day-to-day administration of the church,
- Appoint a Board of Overseers pursuant to Article 11,
- Recognize and enlist apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral and teaching ministries, along with that of Elders, Deacons, and additional staff members as he deems Biblical and necessary. This is for the healthy and balanced spiritual ministry to the body of believers.
- Select Trustees pursuant to Article 6 who will help oversee the business of the Corporation,
- Staff the church as he deems necessary to help administrate the affairs of the Corporation,

(Para. 3) The Pastor's Spiritual Leadership

In his role as Senior Pastor, he may work with Overseers, Elders, Deacons or anyone serving in any fivefold ministry offices as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13 in any way that he determines is biblical. In addition, he may budget monies, hire staff, develop projects or ministry, and create cell groups or other specialized ministries according to his convictions and biblical understanding. He shall have the authority to appoint and approve any assistants that are necessary to properly carry on the work of the church.

(Para. 4) The Pastor's Responsibility for Services

Times, order of services and the leadership of services are to be determined by him or by the spiritual church structure that he establishes. No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister at a service held in church owned facilities, or in the name of the church, without the approval of the Pastor or the appropriate member of the established church ministry team.

Section 2. The Office of the President

(Para. 1) The President

The Corporation finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ and in its President. The Senior Pastor shall serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. If possible, he shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are put into effect. He shall execute in the name of the Corporation all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts and other documents authorized by the Board of Trustees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees, and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of the President of a Corporation.

(Para. 2) The President's Role with Trustees

The President is the non-voting chairman of the Board of Trustees. The only time the President has the authority to vote is in the event that a tie would occur or, when voting on the statement of faith along with the elders (according to Article 18). He appoints Board of Trustee Vice Chairman. The President shall make selections to the Board of Trustees from the church membership at a rate in accordance with Article 9. The President may also dismiss Trustees, but at a rate that does not exceed one dismissal every six months in accordance with Article 9, Section 4, Paragraph 2.

(Para. 3) The President's Role in Administration

The President is the senior administrator of the church. He is ultimately responsible for all day-to day administrative decisions of the church.

(Para. 4) The President's Role with Staff

The President hires directs and dismisses staff. As the Senior Pastor, his call is confirmed to the church through the Congregation, and those hired through him are to assist him in fulfilling this calling.

(Para. 5) The President's Role in Establishing Salaries

The President determines all salaries (except his own) and writes pay scales for full-time salaried employees. Any scales shall be explained to new full-time salaried employees and, should they ever be changed, they will be given in writing to the affected employees. If there is a severance pay agreement, that too must be given to the employee in writing. In addition, all part-time salaries and hourly wages are variable and are to be determined between the President and the employee.

(Para. 8) Budget

The budget is to be based on 90 percent of the previous year's un-designated income. The President is to write the budget for 65 percent of the 90 percent in order to finance the basic ministry needs of the church (salaries, taxes, bills, missions, benevolence, department financial allocations, etc.) He is free to reflect his values and wisdom in his budget portion. Then, the President is to work with the Trustees to add their 35 percent to the budget. Their portion is for the purpose of guaranteeing that the basic needs of the facility are met.

(Para. 9) Expenditures

Budgeted amounts are not to be considered actual monies available. Nothing can be spent by the President except actual funds that are available, and those monies are to be spent according to the budget. The President may not borrow money, sign leases, buy or sell real estate or make any agreements that could force indebtedness upon the church. Should the church borrow, the Trustees may give the President authority to spend those monies on the project for which the funds were borrowed. All un-designated monies that are available to the Corporation *above budgeted amounts* are deemed discretionary and are available to be spent by the President, but he may only obligate funds currently on hand.

**ARTICLE 11
OVERSEERS**

To provide spiritual protection and wisdom to the church and Senior Pastor

(Para. 1) Stockbridge Assembly Requirements to be an Overseer

The members of the Board of Overseers must be active Senior Pastors of respected Congregations who know and love *Stockbridge Assembly* and its Senior Pastor or be ministers known for apostolic wisdom and authority. They must agree to make themselves available at their own expense to serve *Stockbridge Assembly* if requested by the Elders (Article 12, Section 3), and must be willing to provide spiritual protection to the church through prayer and by living an honorable Christian lifestyle.

(Para. 2) Biblical Qualifications for Overseers

“Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap” (2 Timothy 3:2-7).

(Para. 3) Selection and Function of Overseers

A Board of Overseers will be nominated by the Pastor and confirmed by the Elders. The Pastor will be accountable to the Overseers in the event of alleged misconduct in compliance with Article 17.

(Para. 4) Installing new Overseers

Each year the Senior Pastor and the Elders may replace one of the Overseers and enter that change into the minutes of a trustees meeting. If disciplinary action is being considered, changes in the Board of Overseers may not be made until its work is completed. The Current Overseers for Stockbridge Assembly of God, Inc are:
(Insert Names, Churches, and contact info)

ARTICLE 12 ELDERS

Develop the spiritual life of the church

Section 1

(Para. 1) Spiritual Role

The Board of Elders are to covenant together with the Congregation and the Senior Pastor for the development of the spiritual life of the church. These people and their spouses are to be the primary protectors and encouragers of a positive spiritual climate within the church body. They are neither a governing nor a corporate Board, but a spiritual Board called to create and maintain stability in potentially negative situations.

(Para. 2) Definition

The Elders are who function within the local church but are not members of the pastoral staff of the church. They are men who meet the biblical qualifications for eldership and function in that calling, but derive their income from sources other than the church. The number of Elders shall be determined by the senior pastor.

(Para. 3) Functions

The functions of the Elders are:

1. Maintain and teach by living a godly, Christian lifestyle.
2. Provide a prayer shield for the pastoral team and the local church.
3. Defend, protect and support the integrity of the pastoral team and the local church.
4. Pray for the sick.
5. Organize, implement and execute licensing and ordination requirements and procedures.
6. Mediate disputes among the brethren.
7. Counsel.
8. Confirm or reject pastoral appointments to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Overseers.
9. Contact the Board of Overseers to initiate investigation and potential discipline of the Senior Pastor.
10. To modify the statement of faith.

(Para. 4) Biblical Qualifications for Eldership

“An Elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless - not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” Titus 1:6-9

(Para. 5) Nomination and Appointment to the Board of Elders

Selection of the elders will be preceded by the senior pastor teaching on the biblical requirements for eldership at a Sunday service. The Senior Pastor will select Elders based on biblical requirements (Article 12 Para. 4) and the Congregation will ratify the appointment. The ratification process is as followed. Senior Pastor will announce new Elders a week in advance. During the week the Congregation has right to object privately to the Senior Pastor. Senior Pastor must work through each objection. If there is no objection the Elder is ratified at the next worship service.

This nomination process may occur as often as an Elder’s term expires or the senior pastor feels it is necessary for new elders to be added.

(Para. 6) Four Year Service Terms

Once selected to serve on the elder board, the elder and their spouse are to serve for a maximum of four years. After that time of service, the selection process is to be repeated. Anyone re-nominated and appointed may serve as many times as the Congregation and pastor choose. However, should the congregation fail to ratify any certain elder, the pastor may not select him for service.

(Para. 7) Removal of an Elder

Should anyone in the congregation, including a staff member or another elder, bring accusation against an elder, charging that he does not qualify for eldership, a seven-member group from the staff and the elder board may hear the accusations and any response from the accused elder. Three are to be chosen by the accused elder, and four are to be chosen by the senior pastor. The senior pastor may not serve on the panel judging the elder, but may oversee the procedures if he chooses. Then, in an anonymous vote, if five or more agree that the elder does not meet the qualifications of eldership that elder may no longer serve on the elder board.

(Para. 8) Replacement of Elders

During the four years of service, those elders who are no longer able to serve for any reason need not be replaced.

(Para. 9) Statement of Faith

Two-thirds of the serving elders and the senior pastor may amend, modify, add to or delete any portion of Article 4, the statement of faith, in the same process described in article 18. In keeping with the Assemblies of God Statement of Faith and Core Beliefs.

**ARTICLE 13
OFFICERS**

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be a president and a secretary / treasurer and any other officers that the Trustees may authorize from time to time.

Section 2. Appointment, Election and Term of Office.

(Para. 1) Appointment of the president

The appointment and responsibilities of the president are listed in Articles 8 and 10 above.

(Para. 2) Appointment of Secretary / Treasurer

The Secretary / Treasurer is to be nominated by the president and approved by the Trustees.

The term of this office is indefinite. Should the Trustees fail to approve of the nomination of the president, other nominations must be made until a suitable candidate to the Trustees is nominated. The secretary / treasurer may be removed by the President.

(Para. 3) New Offices

New offices may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Trustees. Each officer shall hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualified.

Section 3. Removal of Officers

(Para. 1) Overseers' Responsibility for the President

The overseers of the church may discipline or remove the president according to Article 17.

(Para. 2) Trustees Responsibility for All Other Officers Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees may be removed by the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby; but, such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

Section 4. Powers of Officers

(Para. 1) The President

The powers of the president are listed in Article 10 above.

(Para. 2) The secretary / treasurer

The secretary / treasurer should be a trustee as well as an officer of the corporation. As Secretary, the Secretary shall act as clerk and record (or have recorded) all and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. They shall oversee the keeping of the membership rolls of the corporations, and in general perform the duties usually incident to the office of secretary. They shall also oversee such further duties as shall be prescribed from time to time by the board of Trustees or by the President.

(Para. 3) The Secretary / Treasurer's role over Accounting

As Treasurer, the secretary / treasurer shall oversee the keeping of full and accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation, and shall oversee the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the corporation in such banks and depositories as may be designated by the president. They do not determine expenditures, but shall oversee the disbursement of the funds of the corporation as may be ordered by the trustees or the president. They shall perform the duties usually incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the board of trustees or by the president.

(Para. 4) Audited Financial Statements

The Secretary / Treasurer shall serve on the Audit Review Committee and report to the Trustees after its review of the annual audit. If the church does not have any annual audit, the secretary / treasurer is to provide to the Board a report on the previous year's income and disbursements.

(Para. 5) Cash Flow Statements

The Secretary / Treasurer is to work with the president to provide an annual cash flow statement that must accompany all giving receipts to members. Benefits, support staff salaries, pastoral pay packages, and other items may be grouped together, but the cash portion of the pastoral pay packages must be itemized individually.

(Para. 6) Public Availability of Annual Financial Statements

The Secretary / Treasurer shall insure that current financial statements are available to anyone upon written request and the previous year's cash flow statements are available to all contributors to the church.

Section 5. Trustees' Selection of Additional Officers.

In case of the absence of any officer of the corporation except the president, or for any other reason that may seem necessary to the Board, the Board of Trustees, by a majority vote, may delegate the duties and powers of that officer for the time being to any other officer, or to any Trustee.

ARTICLE 14 BUSINESS PRACTICES

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be February 1st to January 31st.

Section 2. Contracts.

The board of trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of an on behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Checks, Drafts, or Orders

All checks, drafts, orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agents or agents of the corporation, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Trustees, such instruments may be signed by either the secretary / treasurer or the president of the corporation in accordance with their duties outlined in these bylaws.

Section 4. Offerings

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the church board and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Section 5. Handling of Offerings

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church buildings. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the treasurer and the other to the pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

Section 6 (5 from above). Fiduciary Duties

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

Section 7. Deposits

All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the board of Trustees may select in accordance with these Bylaws.

Section 8. Gifts

The President / Senior Pastor may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest or device for any purpose of the corporation.

Section 9: Books and Records

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Trustees, committees having and exercising any of the authority of the Board of Trustees, and any other committee, and shall keep at the principal office a record giving the names and addresses of all Board members entitled to vote. Books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any member for any proper purpose at any reasonable time as approved by a majority of the Trustees on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE 15 PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or, if required by law, to trustees acting on behalf of the assembly and their successors in office. Should the assembly choose to do so, it may request the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold title.

Section 2. Dissolution

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

**ARTICLE 16
CHURCH MINISTRY**

Section 1. Minister Ordination and Licensing.

(Para. 1) Role of the Board of Elders

The Senior Pastor along with the Elders may ordain or license a person as a minister of the gospel after first examining the applicant’s background, his moral and religious character, and previous Bible courses and / or independent study he has completed. Final determination shall be within the absolute discretion of the Board of Elders. This shall be determined by majority vote. If necessary, the tie-breaking vote will go to the Senior Pastor.

(Para. 2) Application Through Elders Board

Application for ordination and / or licensing as a minister of the gospel shall be on the form provided by the Elders. An application shall be either approved or denied within 30 days of the completion of the investigation of the applicant by the Board of Elders. Those applicants who are approved shall receive a certificate evidencing the approval.

(Para. 3) Ability to Limit Ministry Validation

The spiritual leadership of the church may at its own discretion limit any licensee or ordained minister to an area of special emphasis.

**ARTICLE 17
CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. Disciplining Church Members

Only members are subject to church discipline.

Section 2. Disciplining the Pastor

(Para. 1) Criteria for Discipline

Should the Senior Pastor demonstrate immoral conduct, questionable financial practices or theological views that in the opinion of a majority of the elders may require either personal correction or termination of his position, the elders shall contact the senior pastor and then, if necessary, the overseers for investigation and evaluation of any appropriate discipline.

(See Article 12, para. 3)

(Para. 2) Process for Investigation

Should the overseers be asked to investigate alleged pastoral misconduct, a consensus of the majority of the Overseers is required to take disciplinary action. With such a consensus, the overseers shall assume complete authority over the senior pastor. They may decide to remove him from his position or to discipline him in any way they deem necessary. The overseers have no authority in Stockbridge Assembly of God Church unless contacted by the elders, and then only insofar as permitted under these bylaws.

(Para. 3) Motivation

It is the intention of the corporation to protect the hearts of all involved in matters of pastoral discipline. With the method outlined above, the “sheep” never have to pass judgment upon their “shepherd”.

ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted, only by the written approval of the Senior Pastor/President in conjunction with 2/3rds vote (either 4/5, 4/6, or 5/7 depending on the number of trustees). This can be done at any regular meeting of the Trustee Board. The one exception to this is Article 4, the Statement of Faith. Only the Senior Pastor with two thirds of the serving Elders may change the Statement of Faith. At least five days written advance notice of said meeting shall be given to each member of the Board. In the written notice, proposed changes must be explained. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Assemblies of God and Georgia District Council.

Bylaws were approved by majority vote from members of Stockbridge Assembly on

_____.