

FORM:

CONSTITUTION FOR DISTRICT AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES
OF THE NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

ENTER LEGAL NAME OF CHURCH HERE → _____

ENTER LAUNCH DATE HERE → _____

Example: January 13, 2009

ENTER MONTH FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HERE → _____

PRINT DOCUMENT

**CONSTITUTION FOR DISTRICT AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES
OF THE NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

The _____, acknowledged to be a district affiliated assembly of the North Texas District Council, shall be governed by this document as of _____.

PREAMBLE

The _____ is organized and shall be operated primarily for the purpose of engaging in religious worship and promoting the spiritual development or well-being of individuals. We, whose names appear upon the assembly roster under the above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and a part of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God, Hurst, Texas. We, therefore, submit ourselves to be governed by the following articles of church order as adopted by the North Texas District Council District Presbytery.

Article I --Tenets of Faith

This assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purposes of maintaining general unity, we adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Article II--Membership

Section 1. Membership Eligibility. Membership in this assembly shall be opened to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution.

Section 2. Reception of Members. Applications for membership in this assembly shall be presented to the pastor who, together with the advisory committee, shall rule on the qualifications of the applicant.

Section 3. Active Membership. All members of the assembly 18 years of age and older who have been approved and endorsed by the advisory committee and who have faithfully supported the church and its ministry through every means available including attendance, finances, scriptural conduct, etc., shall constitute the active membership.

Article III—Administration and Official Relations

- Section 1. Officers. There shall be a pastor, an advisory committee, trustees, secretary and treasurer.
- Section 2. Advisory Committee. The advisory committee shall consist of the pastor and three or more members of the congregation recommended by the pastor and ratified by the sectional committee.
- Section 3. Committees. Necessary committees may be approved by the advisory committee.
- Section 4. Trustees. Trustees shall be members of the sectional committee.
- Section 5. Duties of Officers.
- a. Pastor--The pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the assembly and all church activities. He shall be the chairman of the advisory committee and ex - officio member of all committees. The pastor shall be responsible for all spiritual services and shall have the oversight in arranging all services of the assembly.
 - b. Advisory Committee--The advisory committee shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life. They shall act, when required, in the examination of applicants for membership.
 - c. Trustees--The trustees shall have oversight of all property held by the assembly.
 - d. Secretary--The secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all business meetings of the church and advisory committee.
 - e. Treasurer--the treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies for the normal operation of the assembly under the supervision of the advisory committee. All finances shall be under the general oversight of the sectional committee.
- Section 6. Sectional Administration. This assembly will be under the supervision of the sectional committee in keeping with the provision of the North Texas District Council until the church becomes a sovereign assembly. (*See Note)

Article IV--Elections

- Section 1. Pastor. The pastor shall be appointed by the sectional committee to serve for two or more years. Term of office is at the discretion of the sectional committee in accordance with district policy.

Section 2. All Other Officers. All other officers shall be nominated by the pastor and ratified by the sectional committee. They shall be appointed for a term of one year.

Section 3. Vacancies. In the event of vacancy during an unexpired term, Section 2 above shall be followed.

Article V--Meetings

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly conducted during the month of _____ each year. The time and place shall be announced by the pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Article VI--Property Rights

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly or, if the assembly is not incorporated, by trustees (the Sectional Committee) and their successors in office.

Section 2. No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated unless it has been authorized by the Sectional Committee.

Section 3. The Pastor and the Secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the Sectional Committee. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Article VII--Asset Use and Dissolution Statement

Section 1. All assets of _____ are hereby pledged for use in performing the church's religious functions and upon discontinuance of _____ by dissolution or otherwise, the assets are to be transferred to the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God, Hurst, Texas, a religious organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3), Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

Section 2. This bylaw is adopted to comply with the requirements of Chapter 11 of the Property Tax Code of the State of Texas, and all of the terms and provisions of the bylaws of the _____ shall be interpreted and construed so as to comply with said Statue and to exempt the real and personal property of _____ from taxation.

Article VIII – Arbitration Clause

Inasmuch as the scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this assembly and the assembly itself, or (2) between any member of this assembly and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other member of this assembly, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be saved and shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4 and shall be members in good standing of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interest which may impair his impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may on the basis of such disclosures disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than thirty days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request of a party and for good cause, or upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least five days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be assessed in the discretion of the arbitrators, who may award by and whom they shall be paid. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Texas both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award.

The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline.

Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the assembly, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

* Note

(1) Definition of District Affiliated Assemblies

District Council affiliated assemblies are deemed to be churches of the Fellowship which are amenable to the North Texas District through the supervision of the sectional presbyter and committee where the assembly is located (Article XI Section 2 paragraph a. of the constitution). They have been entered into such classification as:

- a. Projects within the North Texas District which are supported wholly or in part by the district home missions fund.
- b. Churches which are under district supervision, but are not receiving financial support from district home missions funds.
- c. Churches which may become dependent upon the district because of inability to govern their own affairs or the inability to meet all of their financial obligations.
- d. Assemblies which do not meet the membership requirements of the General Council affiliated assembly; (All District affiliated assemblies with capability for General Council affiliation shall be encouraged to make application for such affiliation.)
- e. Branch assemblies which are established by a General Council affiliated assembly.
- f. Established non-Assemblies of God churches desiring to affiliate with the Assemblies of God.

(North Texas District Bylaws, Article VI, B, Section 1. Defined)

(2) Guidelines of Minimal Membership

- a. When the membership of a General Council affiliated assembly falls below 20 active voting members, it shall seek the assistance of the sectional presbyter for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation.
- b. If after one year, a minimum of 20 members is not attained, the assembly shall revert to district affiliated status.
- c. The church shall remain in district affiliated status until it again meets the requirements for affiliation as a General Council assembly.
- d. When the assembly meets such requirements, a request for General Council affiliation shall be filed with the sectional presbyter for appropriate processing.

(NTDC Bylaws, Article VI, A, Section 9. Guidelines of Minimal Membership).

(3) Organization and Government

District affiliated assemblies shall be governed by the constitution and bylaws for dependent assemblies provided by the district. Since their rights are subordinated to the district and the sectional committee serves as the church board, they shall function under the corporate umbrella of the North Texas District Council.

a. Pastor

- (1) The pastor shall be appointed by the sectional presbyter and committee to a renewable term of two years and shall be directed to lead the church to a point of sufficient development to warrant recognition as a General Council affiliated assembly.
- (2) Because a pastor under appointment is amenable to the sectional officers, a resignation shall be made to the presbyter.
- (3) The expression of the local assembly regarding appointment of the pastor shall be considered, with the final decision being made by the sectional committee.

b. Management.

The sectional presbyter and committee shall provide supervisory assistance to the assembly and, as its trustees, shall help in dealing with any of its problems, both internal and external, including providing for pastoral care, appointing an advisory committee, managing its financial responsibilities, and conducting special business meetings. In every case, the assembly will seek the guidance of the sectional officers before entering into any type of financial agreements which obligate the church or its assets.