

BYLAWS
of the
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
OKLAHOMA DISTRICT INC.

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT OFFICE
6801 S. Western Ave. Suite 206
Oklahoma City, OK 73139
(405) 681-6942

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 83347
Oklahoma City, OK 73148

www.pcgok.org

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS CENTER
2705 Brown Trail
Bedford, TX 76021
(817) 554-5900

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 211866
Bedford, TX 76095

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SECTION 1: DIRECTORY

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- District Bishop/President Richard Talley
P. O. Box 19781 Oklahoma City, OK 73144
Phone: 405.204.0259 Email: bishop@pcgok.org
- District Secretary-Treasurer Carroll Smith
17320 Toledo Dr. Oklahoma City, OK 73170
Phone: 918.695.5462 Email: secretary@pcgok.org
- District Presbyter Fred Owens
P. O. Box 558 Tecumseh, OK 74873
Phone: 405.760.7305 Email: presbyter@pcgok.org
- District Director of Missions Joseph Mullins
3549 Highbridge Rd. Wilburton, OK 74578
Phone: 918.839.7293 Email: districtmissions@pcgok.org
- Director of Finance. Edward Cunningham
102548 S. 4630 Rd. Sallisaw, OK 74955
Phone: 918.208.3903 Email: financedirector@pcgok.org

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

- Men's Ministries Director Todd Turner
P. O. Box 1123 McAlester, OK 74502
Phone: 918.424.7764 Email: mmdirector@pcgok.org
- Women's Ministries Director Donna Morton
105483 3420 Rd. Meeker, OK 74855
Phone: 405.258.8225 Email: wmdirector@pcgok.org
- Youth Ministries Director Office Vacant
Phone: Email: ymdirector@pcgok.org
- Senior Adult Ministries Director Alvie Beck
705 W. Dewey Shawnee, OK 74801
Phone: 405.343.3307 Email: samdirector@pcgok.org

CHURCH DIRECTORY

- Ardmore -** Amazing Grace PCG, 1501 7th NW, Ardmore, OK 73401
Leo Potts, Pastor 580.657.4282
- Ardmore -** Southwest PCG, 1004 C St SW, Ardmore, OK 73401
Helen Waters, Pastor 580.223.9635
- Bokoshe -** Flower Hill PCG, 28028 Highline Rd, Bokoshe, OK 74930
Vernon Stone, Pastor 918.839.4545
- Broken Bow IM-** Indian Mission, P.O. Box 914, Broken Bow, OK 74728
Brenda Battise, Pastor 580.306.5965
- Calera -** Compassion Outreach, 300 E Washington
P.O. Box 632, Calera, OK 74730
David Ervin, Pastor 580.624.0152
- Carnegie IM -**Kiowa Indian Mission, P.O. Box 717, OK 73015
- Cartwright -** Harvest Hour PCG, 12 Cedar Dr., Cartwright, OK 74731
Ronald Ford, Pastor 580.916.8701
- Catoosa –** Full Gospel Lighthouse, 115 N Cherokee St., Catoosa, OK 74015
Mailing: 704 S. Perdue, Claremore, OK 74017
Vincent Montalbano, Pastor 918.808.6295
- Chickasha -** Trinity Community Fellowship, 1028 N. 11th St., Chickasha, OK 73018
Johnny McLaughlin, Pastor 580.649.4969
- Clinton-** New Hope Fellowship, 1805 Custer Ave., Clinton, OK 73601
Gary Jones Jr., Pastor 580.323.4571
- Clinton IM -** Indian Missions, 225 S. 18th St.
P.O. Box 1152., Clinton, OK 73601
Ramus Hicks, Pastor 580.323.3612
- Coalgate -** Gospel Lighthouse, 508 E. Dyer St.
P.O. Box 29, Coalgate, OK 74538
Open Pastorate
- Durant -** Faith Temple PCG, 928 N. 8th, Durant, OK 74701
Grady Ford, Pastor 580.916.8710
- Durant -** Family Worship Center PCG, 720 S. 5th St.
P.O. Box 1834, Durant, OK 74702
Harold Turner, Pastor 405.380.8428
- El Reno -** PCG, 1108 E. Rogers, El Reno, OK 73036
P. O. Box 375 El Reno, OK 73036
Eunetta Heath, Pastor 405.262.5075
- Eufaula -** Lighthouse Christian Center, N. 6th St.
P.O. Box 209, Eufaula, OK 74432
John Parish, Pastor 918.689.7966
- Fort Gibson -** First PCG, 305 SW Railroad St.
P.O. Box 338, Ft. Gibson, OK 74434
Tonna Jones, Pastor 918.478.3615
- Gans/Sallisaw -** Hillside PCG, 467082 Hwy 64
P.O. Box 236, Gans, OK 74936
Edward Cunningham, Pastor 918.208.3903

CHURCH DIRECTORY CONTINUED

- Gore -** Lighthouse Tabernacle, 300 S. Campbell
P.O. Box 87, Gore, OK 74435
William O. Armstrong, Pastor 918.489.5535
- Hobart IM -** Indian Mission, 830-1/2 S. Monroe, Hobart, OK 73651
Edward Elford, Pastor 580.726.2636
- Hobart -** PCG, 700 S. Broadway, Hobart, OK 73651
Terry Heath, Pastor 580.515.3149
- Konawa IM -** Indian Missions, 322 W. North St.
P.O. Box 123, Konawa, OK 74849
Arthur Carpitcher, Pastor 580.925.2346
- Lane -** PCG, 691 S. Iron Stob Rd., Lane, OK
P.O. Box 385, OK 74555
Deward Justus, Pastor 580.889.2750
- Lawton IM -** Indian Missions, 6402 N.W. Birch Ave., Lawton, OK 73502
- Lexington -** Friendly Mission, 214 N. Main, Lexington, OK 73051
Leon McDowell, Pastor 405.206.3345
- Lexington -** Rose Hill PCG, 19251 State Hwy 39, Lexington, OK 73051
Ruben Prewitt, Pastor 580.465.1245
- Locust Grove -** Revive Pentecostal Church of Go, 12302 E. Hwy 412
Mailing Address: 6938 S. 4415 Rd. Locust Grove, OK 74532
Dennis Hall, Pastor 918.479.2507
- Lone Grove -** Country Church, 3342 Cheek Rd.
P.O. Box 28, Lone Grove, OK 73443
Dwight D. Howard, Pastor 580.657.8275
- McAlester -** 831 Mission - Calvary PCG, 309 W Miami
P. O. Box 1993, McAlester, OK 74502
Todd Turner, Pastor 918.918.424.7764
- Meeker -** Living Waters Tabernacle, 341197 E Hwy 62
P.O. Box 238, Meeker, OK 74855
Michael Hall, Pastor 218.601.7091
- Mustang -** PCG, 913 S. Jones, Mustang, OK 73064
Greg Leonard, Pastor 405.503.0940
- Norman -** Heaven Bound PCG, 1055 S E 24th Ave., Norman, OK 73071
James Poulin, Pastor 918.606.0069
- Norman IM -** Little Axe Indian Missions, 540 192nd Ave. SE, Norman, OK 73026
- Okay -** Okay Christian Fellowship, 7409 N. 39th St. E.
P.O. Box 160, OK 74446
Dallas Capps, Pastor 918.706.5311
- Oklahoma City -** Hillcrest Family Worship Center, 2500 SW 59th, OKC, OK 73119
Shawn Smalling, Pastor 405.323.7677
- Oklahoma City IM -** Indian Missions, 315 SE 16th St., OKC, OK 73129
- Oklahoma City -** First PCG, 4300 S Prospect Ave., OKC, OK 73143
P.O. Box 95148, OKC, OK 73143
Terry Holliday, Pastor 405.613.1038

CHURCH DIRECTORY CONTINUED

- Panama -** Solid Rock PCG, 1220 N Kentucky
P.O. Box 896, Panama, OK 74951
Anthony Jiminez, Pastor 918.839.0120
- Perkins -** Life Pointe, 9404 S Perkins Rd
P.O. Box 171, Perkins, OK 74059
Andrew Payne, Pastor 405.996.0688
- Pittsburg IM -** Indian Mission, 7th & Heard, Pittsburg, OK 74560
- Pocola -** Lighthouse PCG, 1805 N Gray St., Pocola, OK 74902
Scott Quick, Pastor 479.849.5455
- Ponca City -** Grace Tabernacle of Praise, 1601 Coleman Rd.
P.O. Box 1744, Ponca City, OK 74602
David Cale, Pastor 580.310.9966
- Poteau -** Shepherd's Heart, 1403 S. McKenna
P.O. Box 586, Poteau, OK 74953
Nicholas Hess, Pastor, 918.413.6452
- Pryor -** PCG, 833 State St.
P.O. Box 125, Pryor, OK 74361
James (Trae) Mullin III, Pastor 918.373.2392
- Pauls Valley -** Light of the World,
17628 N County Road 3197 Pauls Valley, OK 73075
Open Pastorate
- Purcell -** Lighthouse Worship Center PCG, 2728 N. 9th
P.O. Box 796, Purcell, OK 73080
Jeff Pierce, Pastor 405.834.4470
- Purcell -** Cristo Es Rey, 2418 N. 9th, Purcell, OK 73069
Francisco Viezcas, Pastor 405.613.2563
- Quapaw -** Highway Tabernacle PCG, 220 Main St, Quapaw, OK 74363
Raymond Clonts, Pastor 918.674.2777
- Seminole -** Temple of Praise 1100 N University Seminole, OK 74868
Jeff Nance, Pastor 405.382.6208
- Shawnee -** Restoration Church, 1102 N Center Shawnee, OK 74801
Jonathon Coffman, Pastor 405.558.1843
- Stilwell IM -** Stilwell Indian Missions, Rt. 5 Box 5220, Stilwell, OK 74960
Blue Hothouse, Pastor 918.698.4388
- Tahlequah -** Philadelphia Bible Center, 800 Hillcrest
P.O. Box 338, Tahlequah, OK 74465
James Roberts, Pastor 918.456.3227
- Talihina -** Faith PCG, 1301 Hellen St.
P.O. Box 464, Talihina, OK 74571
Stephen Jeffcoat, Pastor 918.839.5771
- Tecumseh -** Countryside PCG, 20814 Hwy. 102, Tecumseh, OK 74873
William Ladra, Pastor 970.940.3733
- Tecumseh -** PCG, 210 W. Washington
P.O. Box 681, Tecumseh, OK 74873
Fred Owens, Pastor 405.275.9079

CHURCH DIRECTORY CONTINUED

- Tishomingo** - Abundant Life, 2908 W Morrow Lane
P.O. Box 751, Tishomingo, OK 73460
Daniel Stevens, Pastor 580.264.0377
- Tulsa** - Faith Tabernacle, 4201 S. 47th W Ave., Tulsa, OK 74107
PO Box 9917 Tulsa, OK 74157
Richard Vance, Pastor 918.361.9156
- Verden** - Pentecostal Lighthouse, 115 N. 4th
P.O. Box 281, Verden, OK 73092
Charles Barnes, Pastor 405778.5555
- Weatherford** - New Life Family Worship Center, 402 N. Custer
P.O. Box 634, Weatherford, OK 73096
Kenneth R. Bryant, Pastor 405.929.0355
- Wheatland** - Gateway Tabernacle, 7004 S. Hwy 152
P.O. Box 375, Wheatland, OK 73097
Tommy Murray, Pastor 405.745.4305
- Wilburton** - River Church, 2043 NE 100th Ave. Wilburton OK 74578,
P.O. Box 756, Wilburton, OK 74578
Joseph Mullins, Pastor 918.839.7293
- Wilson** - Gospel Lighthouse, 354 Texaco Rd, Wilson, OK 73463
Raymond L. Norton, Pastor 580.657.4111
- Yukon** - Victory Christian Fellowship, 300 S. Kimbell Rd., Yukon, OK 73099
Garrett Miller, Pastor 405.324.8380

SECTION 2: DISTRICT BYLAWS

**BYLAWS
of the
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
OKLAHOMA DISTRICT INC.**

PREAMBLE

We believe that it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a people who shall constitute the Body, the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

We further believe that members of the Body, the Church, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship and instruction in the Word of God, the work of its ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and according to God's Word, the early Christians came together in such fellowship as a representative Body of blood-washed and Spirit-filled believers, who cooperated with, and sent out, evangelists and missionaries and, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, set over the churches, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, deacons and helpers.

Therefore, we recognize ourselves as a cooperative Fellowship of Christians, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:3-13).

ARTICLE I

Doctrinal Statement

As a covenant community comprised of followers of Jesus Christ devoted to the Word of God, the Pentecostal Church of God adheres to the following essential values as foundational doctrines and those things which we hold as absolute beliefs (Luke 1:1); seeking always the global advancement of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:8); endeavoring to be connected and serve with a Christ-honoring approach that there be no divisive disturbance of the peace and harmony within the Body of Christ (Mark 10:45, 1 Corinthians 1:10) in order that we will be a relevant voice to reach the unreached peoples of our generation and send the reached into the harvest (Acts 13:36).

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and constituting the Divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:21).

2. The Godhead

We believe there is but one true and living God, who is everlasting, infinite in power, wisdom and goodness; that He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and Preserver of all things (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16). In the unity of this Godhead, there are three persons of one individual essence, who are co-equal, co-existent and co-eternal; namely, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:16, 17; 28:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1, 2, 18; 10:33; 14:26; 15:26; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 9:14).

The Son is the eternally begotten of the Father and accepted earthly limitations for the purpose of incarnation, being true God and true man; conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the just for the unjust as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on High as our great High Priest, and He will return again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and justice.

The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, Executive of the Godhead on earth, the Comforter sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to indwell, to guide and to teach the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and the image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world (Romans 5:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3: 10) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil, and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man to God (1 John 3:8).

4. Salvation

Salvation is made possible through the meritorious work of Jesus Christ on the cross and through Holy Spirit conviction. Godly sorrow works repentance and makes possible the experience of the new birth, and Christ formed within us is the gift of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7).

Man is a free moral agent and can at any time after the new birth experience turn away from God and die in a state of sin facing the consequences of hell (II Peter 2:20-22).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Ephesians 2:8).

5. The Church

The true Church built upon the Foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20), is the Body of our Lord (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27); Christ being the Head (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). Its earthly constituents are all true believers, born

again of the Spirit (John 3:6) and of the Word (1 Peter 1:23), who are living an overcoming Christian life (Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:27). To the Church, through its members, is delegated the various gifts and offices of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27, 28) which are necessary for the successful evangelization of the world and the perfecting of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11, 12).

This universal, invisible, sanctified Church is the chaste virgin Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:1, 2; Ephesians 5:26, 27; Revelation 21:9b, 27). It is this Bride for whom Jesus Christ returns, just prior to the Great Tribulation, to catch her away and take her to heaven (John 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

6. The Ministry

God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls such as He desires to serve as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and specifically endues the one called with the talents and gifts peculiar to that office or offices (Ephesians 4:11-13). Under no circumstances should anyone be ordained or set apart to any such office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

7. Water Baptism

Baptism in water is by immersion, a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19) and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

The following recommendation regarding the water baptism formula is adopted, "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

8. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11), is a gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the new birth (John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 38, 39; 10:44-48). The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied by the speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance as the initial physical sign and evidence (Acts 2:4).

9. Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (Hebrews 13:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

10. The Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior; and being a memorial to His death and resurrection, is strictly limited to Christian believers (1 Corinthians 11:27). The time and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion

of each congregation (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Only unfermented grape juice, the fruit of the vine, as recommended by our Lord (Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18) shall be used in connection therewith.

11. Foot Washing

Foot washing is recognized among many believers as a Christian practice, and the time, manner and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each local congregation (John 13).

12. Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; James 5:14, 15). It is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is available to all who truly believe.

13. Resurrection of the Just

The Bible promises, “This same Jesus shall so come in like manner” (Acts 1:11). His coming is imminent; when He comes, “The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

14. Setting a Time for the Lord’s Return

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing. It is also unwise to teach, preach or publish visions of numbers and dates which would tend to fix the time of the second coming of the Lord (Mark 13:32, 33).

15. The Coming of the Lord

We believe the Bible presents the coming of Christ as personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial. We further contend that this position alone admonishes watchfulness, incites holy living, prevents spiritual declension, and provides maximum incentive and motive for urgency and zeal in evangelizing the unsaved. As demonic deception and satanic darkness deepens, we urge our ministers to maintain and proclaim this doctrinal viewpoint as the “blessed hope” of the Church.

Furthermore, we recommend that should any of our preachers hold to the mid or post-tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected.

16. Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or for repentance (Hebrews 9:27). The Lake of Fire is literal (Revelation 19:20). The terms “eternal” and “everlasting” used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned (Matthew 25:41-46) in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence, as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

17. Tithes

We recognize the scriptural duty of all our people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes as unto the Lord (Hebrews 7:8). Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord in general and not given to charity or used for other purposes (Malachi 3:7-11; Hebrews 7:2; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2).

18. Marriage

We only recognize the Biblical definition of the marriage union as follows: A marital union is only a monogamous marriage between a natural born man and a natural born woman. Based on the principle of covenant initiated by God, marriage is the relationship through which sexuality can fulfill its potential to bless human lives. The covenant of marriage stresses fidelity to one's spouse. It promotes love, respect, trust, companionship, intimacy, spirituality, and peace. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

ARTICLE II

Moral Values

Biblical Standards for Ministry

1. Christian Affirmations

As Christians, the members of the Pentecostal Church of God:

- A. We faithfully pledge our loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- B. We affirm complete confidence in the infallible Word of God.
- C. We affirm our commitment to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16) and we declare our willingness to go anywhere, do anything and sacrifice everything God requires of us in the fulfillment of that commission.

- D. We accept God's call to preach and teach the Word to all people as God gives opportunity, and we do this because of God's love for every human being who, apart from faith in Christ, is judgment bound and destined for hell.
- E. We endorse the Gospel message of salvation by grace alone through faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning death on the cross for our sins.
- F. The proclamation of the Gospel must include a thoughtful call of every person to repent, to commit to Jesus Christ and to follow Him as Lord and Savior, and to do all these lovingly and without coercion or manipulation.
- G. We will stay prayerfully filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit for a deeply spiritual Christ-centered ministry.
- H. We will lead lives of holiness and moral purity, appropriately representing Christian ministry to the Church and the world.
- I. We will practice a life of regular Bible study and pray for personal spiritual growth and anointed ministry.
- J. We will be faithful stewards of all personal and church finances and we will be accountable to all concerned in the finance of our ministry and will be honest in reporting our statistics. We will keep personal and church financial activities separate and inviolate. Following these standards, we will faithfully promote our ministry in the community, "providing things honest in the sight of all men."
- K. We believe our family is a sacred trust and our responsibility to each family member is to be kept as faithfully as our call to minister to others.
- L. We are responsible to the local church and we will conduct our ministry to build up the local body of believers in the larger interest of the Church universal. We are responsible to faithfully discipline all who come to faith under our ministry, to encourage every person to identify with the local church, to work faithfully at evangelism, Christian education and Christian discipleship, and endeavor to train every believer in personal witnessing.
- M. We will share the cross of Christ by relieving both the social and spiritual sufferings of humanity, whether rich or poor, healthy or infirmed; we will do our utmost to alleviate human need, following Christ as our example.
- N. We will give ourselves to prayer, to evangelism, to revival, to Bible-based counseling, to Christian education, to peace making and to our particular office, ministry and calling until Christ returns for His own. We do solemnly affirm these biblical principles for Christian ministry.
- O. We will be subject to those who God has placed in authority over us.
- P. We believe that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian ministry and practicing homosexuals may not be credentialed within the Pentecostal Church of God.

Sexual Ethics

2. Principles of Moral Behavior

The following principles of moral behavior and relationships are foundational for sexual ethics throughout the Pentecostal Church of God. These principles arise from our understanding of God's Word as revealed by the Holy Spirit in Scripture, creation, and the tradition of the Church.

- A. The love of God revealed in Jesus Christ is central to our approach in ethics.
- B. The worth of persons is understood by God's eternal love.
- C. Scripture assigns to the Church the responsibility to protect the vulnerable.
- D. Personal responsibility for behavior is paramount.
- E. Freedom for the oppressed and for the captive is essential (Luke 4:18, 19).
- F. The marriage covenant between a man and a woman is foundational (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:13-16).
- G. Faithfulness to our covenants is vital (Ecclesiastes 5:5).

3. Affirmations Regarding Sexuality

We affirm the following statements about human sexuality:

- A. Sexuality is a good and holy gift of God to humanity bestowed in original creation (Genesis 1:27; 2:25). At the same time, we recognize that our sexuality has been affected by the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden making necessary these statements about God's original and redeemed design for human sexuality.
- B. Monogamous marriage between a man and a woman, based on the principle of covenant initiated by God, is the relationship through which sexuality can fulfill its potential to bless human lives. The covenant of marriage stresses sexual fidelity to one's spouse. It promotes love, trust, companionship, intimacy, spirituality, and peace (Ephesians 5:31).
- C. Biblical sexual relationships demonstrate and are guided by the principles of Christ's love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).
- D. Sexual ethics should be the same for all persons without discrimination.
- E. People can lead fulfilling lives in harmony with God's will without being sexually active (1 Corinthians 7:17).

4. Personal Action

Based on these principles and affirmations, we believe God calls the Church and all persons to:

- A. Exemplify the morality of sexual ethics as expressed through Christ's love, justice, and faithfulness in the marriage covenant.
- B. Stress that sexual desire itself does not morally justify sexual activity.
- C. Renounce as immoral sexual activities that are selfish, irresponsible, promiscuous, degrading, or abusive.
- D. Denounce all forms of exploitation, abuse, and sexual violence. Sexual acts that degrade or dehumanize are contrary to God's will. These include, but are not limited to sexual harassment, pornography, genital mutilation, child abuse, incest, rape, prostitution, and human sex trafficking. No physical, emotional, or spiritual abuse is acceptable.
- E. Offer safety and healing ministry as a natural function of the Body of Christ to those who have been threatened, ostracized, exploited, abused, violated, and whose relationships have been broken.

5. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

A. Affirmation of Marriage.

The Pentecostal Church of God affirms that marriage is between one man and one woman. Homosexuality is not compatible with Christian ministry.

B. Designed by God.

Marriage is a covenant designed by God and is a sacred covenant relationship between husband and wife for a lifetime. The sanctity of marriage and family is upheld in Scripture. It is understood, therefore, that divorce is the breaking of the marriage covenant and represents less than the ideal. We further understand that sin has disrupted marriage and family relationships. Divorce is not encouraged in Scripture, for the grace of God encourages reconciliation. Yet because of the hardness and stubbornness of the human heart, reconciliation is not always possible. The New Testament does reflect a higher standard for the ministry because of the responsibility of leadership in the Church and that the minister's life must model his/her message. We seek to comprehend and practice a balance between God's grace and holding the standard set forth in God's Word.

C. Divorced and Remarried Ministers.

No divorced and remarried Christian shall be granted Credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God except in the following cases:

1. The divorce occurred prior to the first confirmed experience of salvation (Hebrews 9:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. The divorce was for the cause of fornication on the part of the applicant's former spouse (Matthew 5:32; 19:9), where the applicant was faithful to the marriage vows.

3. The divorce occurred when an unbeliever departs from a believer (1 Corinthians 7:15). It must be determined that every effort was made personally and legally to save the marriage, and said divorce occurred against the will of the applicant.

6. Gambling

The Pentecostal Church of God declares opposition to the sin of gambling in any form.

ARTICLE III

Legal Values

1. Name

The name of this corporation shall be the: PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD OKLAHOMA DISTRICT INC.

2. Object and Purpose

The object and purpose of this corporation shall be:

- A. To preach the gospel and further the cause of the kingdom of God, and to further the objects and purposes of the Pentecostal Church of God within the state of Oklahoma, the United States and in foreign lands.
- B. To promote and maintain churches and missions in the state of Oklahoma, to provide fellowship and means of cooperation between churches of similar faith and doctrine, and to facilitate our objects and purposes through them.
- C. To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression, within the limits of its own statement of faith and doctrine, among its own churches, ministers and members.
- D. To ordain, license and otherwise qualify ministers to preach the gospel, and provide credentials for the same.
- E. To buy, rent, acquire by gift or otherwise, to own, operate, maintain and use, such real estate, personal and mixed property as shall be necessary for the maintenance, operation and carrying on of the business of the corporation, and to lease, sub rent, sell, assign, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of said property or properties upon said terms and conditions, and at such times as in the opinion of the District Board, may be advantageous to the interests of the corporation.
- F. To borrow money for the purpose of purchasing such real estate, personal and mixed property, as in the opinion of the District Board, may be necessary to properly and adequately carry on the objects and purposes of the corporation

business and undertakings, and to execute notes, deeds of trust, mortgages and other evidences of indebtedness on behalf of the corporation for the repayment thereof; and, to satisfy and release notes, deeds of trust, mortgages and other evidences of indebtedness on behalf of the corporation.

- G. To maintain such relation with local and state government as may be necessary for successful accomplishment of the objects and purposes of the corporation, and for the welfare of the churches, ministers and members thereof.
- H. To engage such employees as may be necessary to perform the duties involved in carrying on the corporation business.
- I. To make bylaws for the government of the corporation, and to alter, revise and amend the same at will.

3. Form of Government

The Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. now, has, and shall always maintain, a representative and congregational form of government.

4. Corporate Officers

- A. The officers designated as follows shall sign all deeds, notes mortgages, leases and documents of every character and description, and shall attach the corporate seal to such thereof as may be necessary, for and on behalf of the corporation; and they shall manage, direct, superintend and carry on the business of the corporation subject to the approval or disapproval of the District Board: 1 President and 1 Secretary
- B. The office of president shall at all times be filled by the District Bishop, and his term, election, or appointment shall coincide therewith.
- C. The office of secretary shall at all times be filled by the District Secretary-Treasurer, and his term, election, or appointment shall coincide therewith.

5. Title to Local Church Properties

- A. Title to all church properties (both real and personal) either purchased by or given to the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. is to be held in fee simple in the name of the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc.
- B. Property owned, paid for or partly paid for by, or given to, the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc., or one of the local churches may be deeded to the local church (or its trustees), providing the following reversionary clause is part of the deed:

“In the event of either an attempted conveyance of any interest in this real estate, or disaffiliation with the Pentecostal Church of God, or the dissolution of the local church, or the use of this real estate for any purpose other than as a church, this real estate will automatically revert to the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. with no further act or deed required.”

- C. The Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. shall provide its written consent, waiver, or subordination agreement to a local church which has been granted title to its real estate with the above reversionary clause to sell, exchange, transfer and convey said property, or to borrow money and pledge the said real estate for the repayment of the same and to exercise all necessary deeds, conveyance, etc.; after satisfaction of the following:
1. The proposed transfer shall be brought before a regular or special meeting of the local church.
 2. Said meeting and the notice thereof shall be in compliance with all bylaws of the local church.
 3. A simple majority of the local members must be present at the meeting.
 4. The meeting must be chaired by the District Bishop of the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. or by one he may appoint, or one provided for by the district bylaws.
 5. The proposed transfer shall be approved by two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) of all church members present at the meeting.
 6. The proposed transfer is approved by a two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) majority of the members of the District Board after compliance with the Oklahoma District bylaws relative to the transfer of real estate.
- D. When the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc., and the local church have both invested in the real estate, the property may be deeded one half (1/2) undivided interest to the local church and one half (1/2) undivided interest to the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. at the request of the local church.
- E. Where the church is already functioning as a church and owned by the people or their trustees, and the minister receives credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District, the church would be in fellowship, and at the request of the church could be set in order and given a fellowship certificate and receive all the ministerial privileges namely, voting, covering for I.R.S. purposes and holding office as the District chooses.
- F. Any minister who does not comply with the bylaw provision for transfer of property shall be required to meet the District Board for accountability. If there is no quorum of the District Board, the General Council shall replace the District Board. The credentials of any minister in noncompliance with bylaw procedures for legal transfer of property shall be in jeopardy.
- G. The conveyance of any district interest in real estate or the execution of a consent to transfer an interest in real estate owned by a local church shall be made and executed by the District Bishop and the District Secretary only after a regular or special District Board meeting at which the issue of real estate is on the notice of meeting and agenda and approved at said meeting, at which a simple majority of members must be present, by two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) of the

District Board members in attendance.

6. Corporate Dissolution

- A. The assets of the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. are irrevocably dedicated exclusively for religious, charitable and/or education purposes. In the event of dissolution of the district corporation, all net assets shall accrue to the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), a Texas Corporation whose headquarters is in Bedford Texas.
- B. In the event of the dissolution of any local church corporation, all net assets of the local church corporation shall accrue to the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc.

7. Bylaws

- A. The Resolutions Committee may submit any alteration, amendment, repeal or make an addition to these bylaws that it may deem proper, to the vote of any District Convention lawfully assembled, and if favorable passed upon by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, such alteration, amendment, repeal or addition shall become a part thereof.
- B. All bylaws of this corporation shall conform to the bylaws thereof, to the laws of the state and federal government; and shall be null and void insofar as they fail to do so, but not otherwise.
- C. These bylaws, as well as any and all other bylaws lawfully adopted by the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc., shall be printed in pamphlet form and furnished to all officials of the corporation, as well as others connected therewith as it may be deemed proper for their information and guidance.

8. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order or standing rules adopted for the meetings of the District Convention, District Board, Executive Committee, or other committees by those respective bodies for their own meetings.

ARTICLE IV

Organizational Structure and Government

1. District Convention

- A. The annual District Convention of the corporation shall be held in the month of June each year. Notice of the meeting shall be made not less than sixty (60) days prior to the convention. The purpose of these conventions shall be to elect

the district officials, to alter, amend, repeal or add to the bylaws, and any other business as may come before the District Convention. In case of an emergency, or any other good and just reason, the District Board may call the ministers of the district into special session of the annual convention, the purpose or purposes thereof shall be stated, and no other business shall be transacted.

- B. All matters coming before the convention shall be decided by majority vote, except those requiring two-thirds (2/3) vote, as set forth in the bylaws. (See Article III, #7, A)
- C. No program, department, or ministry that was voted on by the District Convention shall be closed out, deleted, or suspended by any committee or board without being brought back to the District Convention for a vote on what is recommended by the Board or Committee.
- D. The District Board shall select all convention committees prior to the District Convention.
- E. No resolution shall be refused or destroyed by the Resolutions Committee without the approval of the author.
- F. All resolutions to be presented to the District Convention must be received by the District Office no later than 30 days prior to the first day of convention. No resolution will be accepted beyond this date unless approved by the District Board.
- G. Any church that has not paid the district convention assessment for the current year shall not be allowed to seat delegate(s) at convention.
- H. All officers of the Oklahoma District shall file a written report at least 30 days prior to District Convention. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall compile these reports and provide them to each registered delegate at convention.

2. District Board

- A. The District Board shall consist of the following officials: District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Presbyter, Director of Missions, Director of Finance, a Sectional Presbyter from each section, and the Ministries Directors as qualified by the bylaws.
- B. The District Board shall be the managing directors and the governing body of the corporation; their approval or disapproval of the acts of the officers hereinafter designated, shall fully bind the corporation
- C. The District Bishop shall act as chairman and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall act as secretary at all meetings of the District Board.
- D. The District Board shall meet as set forth in the District Policy Manual to ratify the business of all district organized committees and to transact any new business that may be required.

- E. The District Bishop shall be privileged to call a District Board meeting at any time he deems necessary or an emergency. A special District Board meeting may be called by notifying all the members of the District Board at least 24 hours prior to the meeting by telephone, letter, or email unless said meeting is called during the business session of District Convention.
- F. No business may be transacted at any District Board meeting until a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the elected District Board Members.
- G. A majority vote shall carry or defeat, any motion, resolution, or any other matter before the District Board.
- H. Business meetings of the District Board and its authorized committees may be conducted with members physically present in one room, or by phone conference, video conference, or other electronic means, as long as the means provide for simultaneous aural communication among all participating members.
- I. All elected District Board Members shall be required to attend all District Board meetings, except in an extreme emergency, whereas they must notify the district office. In the event that two (2) or more meetings are not attended without notifying the district office, they shall be required to resign said office.
- J. The District Board may at their discretion recommend qualified candidates for district offices with the exception of sectional presbyters.
- K. Members of the District Board may not concurrently hold two District Board Offices.
- L. The District Board may modify sections, redraw sectional boundaries, and create new sections when deemed necessary.
- M. Any minister in good standing with the Oklahoma District Pentecostal Church of God who has served on the District Board for twenty or more years shall become an honorary member.

3. Executive Committee

- A. There shall be a committee consisting of the District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Presbyter, Director of Missions, and Director of Finance. This committee shall be known as the Executive Committee.
- B. The Executive Committee shall conduct district business between board meetings.
- C. The District Convention shall appoint the Executive Committee to revise the bylaws where they are duplicated and add all new or amended bylaws passed by the District Convention.
- D. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Credential Committee for the

Oklahoma District. This committee shall not approve any applicant whose application has not been signed by the pastor and the sectional presbyter. The acceptance of all applicants who have completed the credential process shall rest with the District Board.

- E. The Executive Committee shall serve as the District Missions Board.
- F. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Financial Committee for the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc.

4. Departments

A. Department of District Missions

Accepting the call of the Lord to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel,” the Oklahoma District establishes the District Missions Department as a means of evangelistic outreach to our state. It shall be part of the district and shall function under the authority of the District Officials.

B. Department of Men’s Ministries

The Oklahoma District desires to build men of integrity to support the structure of God in the home and Church; therefore, the Department of Men’s Ministries (MM) shall be recognized as the men’s organization, which shall function under the supervision of the District Officials.

C. Department of Women’s Ministries

The Oklahoma District recognizes the need for a closer union of fellowship and service among the Christian women of our organization; therefore, the Department of Women’s Ministries (WM) shall be recognized as the women's organization, which shall function under the supervision of the District Officials.

D. Department of Youth Ministries

The Department of Youth Ministries (YM) is the official youth organization of this district and shall be so recognized by all ministers and members who shall cooperate therewith. It shall be a part of this District and shall function under the supervision of the District Officials.

E. Department of Senior Adult Ministries

The Oklahoma District recognizes the need for continued fellowship and service among the senior adults of our organization; therefore, the Department of Senior Adult Ministries (SAM) shall be recognized as the senior adult organization, which shall function under the supervision of the district officials.

ARTICLE V
District Leadership

1. The District Bishop (Corporate President)

- A. The District Bishop shall be an ordained minister, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, with at least ten (10) years of experience in the ministry, of which no less than five (5) years must be as a Senior/Lead Pastor, and one (1) years membership in the District. He shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of two (2) years the first election and four (4) years each of the following elections.
- B. Should the Office of the District Bishop become vacant, a special convention shall be called by the District Secretary-Treasurer and the District Presbyter within thirty (30) days to fill the unexpired term of office. The District Secretary-Treasurer and District Presbyter shall act for the Bishop's office in an ex officio capacity until the convention elects a new Bishop. The special convention shall be chaired by a General Official.
- C. The District Bishop may serve as chairman of the District Convention.
- D. The District Bishop shall be the head of the District Office and supervise the work of said office during the interim between sessions of the District Convention. He shall be authorized to sign and/or countersign all official legal documents.
- E. The District Bishop shall have general supervision over all work in the District. He shall administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the District Board. He shall perform any other function usual and/or customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the District Board.
- F. The District Bishop shall represent the District at General Convention, General Board meetings, and other matters pertaining to General business.
- G. The Office of the District Bishop shall be a full-time position and shall receive a stipulated salary as determined by the District Board.

2. District Secretary-Treasurer (Corporate Secretary)

- A. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be an ordained minister, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, who has the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with no less than five (5) years ordained experience, and one (1) year membership in the District. He shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of two (2) years the first election and four (4) years each of the following elections.
- B. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be qualified for the duties of this office. He must have experience in current accounting methods and procedures and must be familiar with and able to work in the accounting programs used by the

District. He must have a working knowledge of church business, tax law, and IRS reporting requirements.

- C. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the official records of the District.
- D. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall act as secretary of the District Convention, District Board, Executive Committee, and all other official District meetings. He shall keep a record of all resolutions, motions, and other business transacted in said meetings. These records shall be printed and furnished to all officials, and such others connected with the organization as required.
- E. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall sign all official and legal documents as may be required and perform such other duties as are necessary to the office or as directed by the District Board.
- F. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall have charge of all monies received and/or paid to the corporation. He shall keep accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and maintain current records that fully reflect the financial status of the corporation.
- G. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be bonded as may be required by the District Board.
- H. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall post in a monthly report a list of all churches that are open for pastors and keep them posted until the pastorates are filled.
- I. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall represent the District at General Convention and General Board meetings.
- J. The Office of the District Secretary-Treasurer shall receive a stipulated salary as determined by the District Board.
- K. Should the office become vacant for any reason, the District Board shall appoint a suitable, qualified successor to serve until the next District Convention.

3. District Presbyter

- A. The District Presbyter shall be an ordained minister, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, who has the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with no less than five (5) years ordained experience, and one (1) year membership in the district. He shall be elected by 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of two (2) years.
- B. Should the office become vacant for any reason, the District Board shall appoint a suitable, qualified successor to serve until the next District Convention.
- C. The District Presbyter shall cooperate with the District Bishop and assist him when requested to do so.
- D. The District Presbyter shall represent the District at General Convention and

General Board meetings.

4. Director of District of Missions

- A. The Director of District Missions shall be an ordained minister, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, who has the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with no less than five (5) years ordained experience, and one (1) years membership in the district. He shall be elected by 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of two (2) years.
- B. Should this office become vacant for any reason, the District Board shall appoint a suitable, qualified successor to serve until the next District Convention.
- C. The Director of District Missions shall serve as the District Director of World Missions, Indian Missions, and the District Missions Department. His responsibilities shall include but are not limited to those listed in the District Bylaws.
- D. The Director of District Missions shall supervise the Department of District Missions.
- E. The Director of District Missions shall assist and promote the One Missions Department of the International Headquarters in their various Foreign, National, and Indian Missions projects.
- F. The Director of District Missions shall help coordinate and assist the foreign missionaries as they itinerate the District.
- G. The Director of District Missions shall serve as liaison between the District and the Indian Missions churches; and shall promote and coordinate support for the Indian Missions events and their local church needs in the District.
- H. The Director of District Missions shall perform other department related duties as requested by the District Board or District Bishop.

5. The Director of Finance

- A. The Director of Finances shall be an ordained minister, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, who has the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with no less than five (5) years ordained experience, and one (1) years membership in the Oklahoma District. He shall be elected by 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of three (3) years.
- B. The Director of Finances shall be qualified for the duties of this office. He must have experience in current accounting methods and procedures. He must be able to audit and assess both local church and District finances. He must be familiar with and able to work in the accounting programs used by the District. He must have a working knowledge of church business, tax law, and IRS reporting requirements.
- C. Should the office become vacant for any reason, the District Board shall

appoint a suitable, qualified successor to serve until the next District Convention.

- D. The Director of Finances shall prepare an annual operating budget for the District for each fiscal year, assisted by the District Secretary-Treasurer. He shall also assist all other departments in the preparation of their annual operating budget. All annual operating budgets are to be presented at the regularly scheduled 4th quarter District Board meeting for approval by the District Board.
- E. The Director of Finances shall audit the District and all other department's finances annually. He shall present annually to the District Convention a written report of the audit findings; included in that report should be an assessment of the financial condition of each set of finances audited, as well as any recommendations of needed changes.
- F. The Director of Finances shall oversee the receiving of offerings at all District sponsored meetings.
- G. The Director of Finances shall evaluate all loans submitted by or involving the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District.
- H. The Director of Finances shall assist the District Officials in all financial matters concerning the Oklahoma District; as well as, prepare and present programs to promote the finances of the Oklahoma District when asked by the District Bishop and/or the District Board.

6. Sectional Presbyters

- A. The Sectional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers with all dues and assessments paid up-to-date; not less than thirty (30) years of age, who have the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with not less than five (5) years of experience in the active ministry, one (1) years membership in the District, and must be a senior pastor in the section he is elected to represent for at least six consecutive months prior to election.
- B. They shall be elected by the credentialed ministers of the section who are current with their credentials and tithe, the minister's saved spouses, and one (1) delegate from each church of the section. They shall be elected to serve a term of two (2) years.
- C. The elections of Sectional Presbyters shall occur in even numbered years after District Convention and prior to the next regularly scheduled District Board meeting. All sectional officer's elections shall be conducted using the same rules that govern the election of officers at District Convention.
- D. Sectional Presbyters elections shall be individually ratified by the District Board.
- E. If the Sectional Presbyter's pastorate is terminated for any reason, the office of the sectional presbyter shall also be terminated at the same time, unless he accepts another pastorate in the same section within 30 days.

- F. In case the office becomes vacant before the term is up, the District Bishop or a designated member of the Executive Committee shall conduct an election at the next fellowship meeting in said section to fill the unexpired term.
- G. No pastor shall be elected as a Sectional Presbyter unless his church is chartered with the Pentecostal Church of God.
- H. The Sectional Presbyters shall assist and cooperate with the District Bishop in the section they represent. They shall conduct pastoral elections in local churches, conduct fellowship meetings, have general oversight over all other usual and customary duties of such office, or as may be directed by the District Convention, District Board, or District Bishop.
- I. Sectional meetings shall be at the presbyter's discretion as to time, date and place.
- J. District Officials and Departmental Directors shall coordinate sectional rallies/events and sectional business through the Sectional Presbyter of the section within which the event or business is to be conducted.

7. District Men's Ministries Director

- A. The District Men's Ministries Director shall be an ordained minister, male, not less than thirty (30) years of age with at least five (5) years of experience in the active ministry. He shall have been in the Oklahoma District for at least one (1) year and shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of two (2) years.
- B. The Men's Ministries Director shall be a member of the District Board provided he is an ordained minister. The Director shall be compensated for District Board expenses the same as a Sectional Presbyter.
- C. The duties of the Men's Ministries Director shall be to coordinate and conduct district and regional Men's Ministries events, such as services, retreats, seminars, etc.
- D. He shall promote Men's Ministries throughout the District and shall encourage and assist with the development of local church Men's Ministries groups.
- E. He shall provide resources and other material that will aid in the overall spiritual growth and development of the men of the Oklahoma District.
- F. He shall represent the district at General and national Men's Ministries meetings, as well as all other General and national functions that may be required of his office.
- G. Should the office of District Men's Ministries Director be vacated prior to the completion of an elected term, the District Board shall appoint a qualified replacement to fulfill the unexpired term.

8. District Women's Ministries Director

- A. The District Women's Ministries Director shall be a licensed or ordained lady

minister, not less than thirty (30) years of age, with at least 5 years of experience in the ministry, or a lady member of the PCG Oklahoma District with equivalent qualifications and leadership experience. She shall have been in the Oklahoma District at least one (1) year and shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the District Convention to serve a term of two (2) years.

- B. The Women's Ministries Director shall be a member of the District Board provided she is an ordained minister. The Director shall be compensated for District Board expenses the same as a Sectional Presbyter.
- C. She shall conduct all WM rallies/events in the district according to the schedule established by District Board policy. She shall coordinate and oversee all District WM meetings including but not limited to Ladies Retreat, Alabaster, and Girls Impact.
- D. She shall represent the district at General WM meetings, as well as all other General Office functions as may be required of her office.
- E. She shall cooperate with the General WM Office in all projects where like vision, goals, and standards are shared.
- F. Should the Office of District WM Director be vacated prior to the completion of an elected term, the District Board shall appoint a qualified replacement to fulfill the unexpired term.

9. District Youth Ministries Director

- A. The District Youth Director shall be elected by the District Board by a 2/3 vote for a term of two years. The DYD election shall be held post-convention or as otherwise deemed advantageous for the District.
- B. Candidates must be currently or qualified to become a PCG licensed or ordained minister at the time of election. He or she shall be a minimum of twenty-one (21) years old.
- C. The duties, job description, and compensation of the District Youth Director shall be determined by the District Board.
- D. The Youth Ministries Director shall be a member of the District Board provided he or she is an ordained minister. The Director shall be compensated for District Board expenses the same as a Sectional Presbyter.

10. District Senior Adult Ministries Director

- A. The District Senior Adult Ministries Director shall be an ordained or licensed minister, not less than sixty (60) years of age, with at least one (1) years membership in the district. They shall be appointed by the District Board to serve a term of two (2) years.
- B. The biennial appointment of the Senior Adult Ministries Director shall be at the first regularly scheduled District Board meeting after District Convention.

- C. The Senior Adult Ministries Director shall be a member of the District Board provided he or she is an ordained minister. The Director shall be compensated for District Board expenses the same as a Sectional Presbyter.
- D. Should the office of District Senior Adult Ministries Director be vacated prior to the completion of an appointed term, the District Board shall appoint a qualified replacement to fulfill the unexpired term.

11. Leadership Related

- A. District Officials shall not influence, or attempt to influence, the election of sectional officers. If it is proven that this is violated, the election itself shall be invalidated.
- B. All elected and appointed officers of the Oklahoma District and its ministries shall be required to have a background check.

ARTICLE VI

Ministerial Credentials

1. Credential Process

The Oklahoma District shall, through its proper officials, ordain and license suitable candidates for the ministry, subject to the conditions set forth in the General Bylaws and by the Oklahoma District.

2. Exhorter

Exhorter status is considered the first step toward the goal of ordination.

- A. Exhorter candidates shall have completed the Exhorter Study Series and fulfilled all the requirements of the Oklahoma District credentialing policy. They shall carry the exhorter credential a minimum of one (1) year. During this one-year period the minister may complete the License Study Series and complete the reading of the whole Bible, but this must be completed within two (2) years.
- B. Within a two-year period, the exhorter shall submit to their district board an application for advancement to licensed status. The district board shall then determine if the exhorter is granted licensed status. If the district board does not grant licensed status at this time, the exhorter may apply again within another two-year period. If after that time the district board does not grant licensed status, the exhorter shall no longer hold ministerial credentials.
- C. The new Exhorter minister shall have a Pentecostal Church of God home and be a regular attendant and supporter of the church or have just reason approved by the District Board.
- D. They must be in preparation for the full-time ministry working under the

direction of the local pastor where applicable. They must be willing to be trained by said pastor in areas of ministry, including but not limited to, funeral preparation, weddings, pastoral counseling, financial matters, etc.

- E. The new Exhorter may preach, teach or hold revivals when the opportunity arises. The new Exhorter (those having less than 1 year of verifiable ministry experience) shall not be allowed to pastor until they have accomplished at least one year of training under a senior pastor.

3. License

The license credential is considered a second step toward the goal of becoming an ordained minister.

- A. Licentiates are those who, in the judgment of the Credentials Committee, have proven their fitness for ministry, but have not qualified for ordination. They shall have completed the License Study Series (or its equivalency) and fulfilled all the requirements of the Oklahoma District credentialing policy. They shall carry the license credential a minimum of two (2) years.
- B. Within a two-year period, the licensed minister shall submit to the district board an application for ordination. The district board shall then determine if the licensed minister is approved for ordination. If the district board does not approve ordination at this time, the licensed minister may apply again within another two-year period. If after that time the district board does not approve ordination, the licensed minister shall no longer hold ministerial credentials.

4. Ordained

Ordination is considered an eventual goal for Pentecostal Church of God ministers.

The ordained ministers are those who, in the judgment of the Credentials Committee, have fully qualified for and are worthy of ordination. All licensed ministers who are candidates for ordination shall be required to have fulfilled at least one (1) full year as a full-time pastor or associate pastor. If working on a secular job, the candidate must have at least two (2) years of experience as an associate pastor. They shall have completed the Ordination Study Series (or its equivalency) and fulfilled all the requirements of the Oklahoma District's credentialing policy. Additionally, they shall have fully cooperated with the District in all its undertakings by full moral, spiritual, and financial support. They shall be in full accord with the works of the District.

5. Credential Related

- A. All Oklahoma District ministers, and their spouses shall be required to have a background check by a legally authorized agency or company and a current copy maintained in each ministers file.
- B. All ordained and licensed ministers shall devote their time to the ministry, unless incapacitated by illness, and failure to do so may affect their fellowship

with this organization.

- C. Any minister joining this organization shall be required to remain six (6) months before eligible for transfer.
- D. No person shall be accepted at any level of credential if they or their companion:
 - 1. Are a convicted or registered sex offender.
 - 2. Practice any type of homosexuality or sexual perversion.
 - 3. Use illicit drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
 - 4. Participate in gambling of any form.
- E. A minister's credential shall be revoked if they become a convicted or registered sex offender or whose actions disqualify them from the ministry according the bylaws or the written policies of the organization.

ARTICLE VII

Ministerial Relationships

1. Ministerial Relations

- A. Our ministers are privileged to use the services of ministers of like faith who are not affiliated with the district as evangelists. Any pastor or evangelist who is not a member of this district shall be privileged to labor in other churches when they deem it wise to do so for the up-building of the Kingdom of God, providing they do not lend their efforts to a neighboring antagonistic assembly or congregation, thereby injuring the Pentecostal Church of God congregation in the community.
- B. In order to cultivate fellowship and to work in harmony in towns of ten thousand (10,000) population or less where a Pentecostal Church of God congregation exists, it shall be considered inadvisable for any of our ministers to start a new work unless sanctioned by the District Bishop and the local pastor. However, in towns of more than ten thousand (10,000) population where a Pentecostal Church of God congregation exists, the new work or endeavor must be at least twenty-four (24) blocks away from a present local church, and if closer than this distance it must be sanctioned by the District Bishop and the local pastor.
- C. Our evangelists and pastors shall not lend themselves to any disgruntled element in any of our churches in an endeavor to dispose of present pastor, or by causing dissension or strife. Anyone so doing shall be subject to drastic discipline. Our evangelists and pastors are advised not to interfere with others

who have charge of churches or missions, whether it be by entering in without consent of the one in charge, or by corresponding with members of the church or mission as will affect the influence of the leader and the harmony of the congregation. All inquiries or correspondence which concerns the church, such as visiting the field, conducting revivals, etc., shall be addressed to the church secretary or some other proper official of the church.

- D. Any pastor of this district who uses a minister that has been shown no longer in fellowship or dropped from fellowship for the cause of moral or doctrinal issues, shall be required to meet the District Board, and shall be subject to discipline. Any pastor of this district who uses a minister that either has sown, or is sowing, discord shall be subject to discipline.
- E. When differences arise between ministers and workers, they shall be settled privately if possible, but if after honest effort this cannot be done, then those concerned shall have a right to bring the matter before the District Board. If the situation be such that charges are instituted or filed, the procedure shall follow the regulations set forth in the Ministerial Discipline and Restoration Process.

2. Ministerial Discipline and Restoration

A. Biblical Authority.

The Pentecostal Church of God recognizes the responsibility to exercise Biblical authority in the form of discipline. Disciplinary action should always honor God, follow Scriptural truth, maintain purity of intention, seek reconciliation and restoration, and safeguard the integrity and purity of ministry.

B. Accountability of Ministers.

All ministers are accountable to their respective district board in every matter of conduct and doctrine. No accusations or charges against any credentialed minister shall be considered, unless all the procedure outlined within the Addendum to the General Bylaws shall be adhered to. Violations resulting in disciplinary action include lack of compliance of the Biblical Standards of Ministry (Article II of the General Bylaws).

Procedure:

1. When an accusation is correctly filed with the District Bishop, the district executive committee shall meet with:
 - A. The accuser
 - B. The accused
 - C. Both parties
2. After the three meetings, the district executive committee shall determine if the accusation shall be made a formal charge.
3. If a formal charge is made, the investigation team shall be formed, and the

remaining procedures remain in place.

C. Development and Approval of Policy.

1. The General Board shall be assigned the functional role of developing the policies and procedures for accusations, discipline and restoration of ministers.
2. The General Convention shall adopt the policies and procedures on accusations, discipline and restoration, which may be amended by a majority vote.
3. These procedures shall be printed as a separate policy and included in the General Handbook along with the Bylaws of the Pentecostal Church of God. These procedures shall also be printed in the Oklahoma District Bylaw as Addendum I.

ARTICLE VIII

Finance

1. Ministers Tithing

- A. The qualifications for the gospel ministry are found in 1st Timothy and Titus 1. The ministers must be examples to the flock in teaching and obeying Malachi 3:10, for the support of the district work and ministers. It is expected that all minister's support by tithing into the district, all those failing to do so shall give account to the district.
- B. All ministers, regardless of their credential level, send 60% of their tithes (both secular and ministerial) to the District Office with the remaining 40% going into their local church.
- C. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the District Bishop when any minister misses any three (3) months reporting to the District Office with his/her tithes. Said minister shall be sent a delinquent tithes letter and the Bishop or designated representative shall contact the minister to determine the reason for not reporting and provide counseling and prayer as needed.
- D. Any minister whose tithes record reflects 4 months of nonpayment in any 12-month period shall be immediately dropped and must meet the District Board if they desire to be reinstated.
- E. Any minister starting a new work, or opening closed doors of an existing building, shall be required to tithe according to bylaw, and upon request the district may return to them a check (equal to, or an amount above their tithes) to assist

them in their work for the period of six (6) months. After that period, they will then be reevaluated for further help.

- F. All full-time students of Messenger College carrying a minimum 2.75 GPA, who hold credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God, shall be exempt from special fund and benevolence fund. Messenger College students wishing to receive this exemption shall be required to report their GPA following the close of each semester.

2. Benevolence Fund

- A. The Oklahoma District of the Pentecostal Church of God shall organize the "Benevolence Fund."
- B. Each credentialed minister shall send ten dollars (\$10.00) per month to the District Office for the Benevolence Fund.
- C. Benevolence Fund exemptions:
 - 1. Ministers who transfer into the district who are sixty (60) years of age or older.
 - 2. A credentialed spouse.
- D. Be it resolved, that the District stop adding names to the Benevolence Fund for payment of benefits at the close of business year 2012.

3. Special Fund

- A. Each minister in the Oklahoma District shall be required to send in five dollars (\$5.00) per month along with his tithe to be set aside in a special fund for the expenses of our quarterly meetings.
- B. When a minister reaches the age of seventy (70), they shall be exempt from paying the five dollars (\$5.00) per month for the special fund.

4. District Operations

- A. All monies received by, or paid into, the district office from the tithing of the ministers, and other monies so designated, shall be placed into the general fund out of which salaries, wages of employees, expense of operating the business of the corporation and all other costs, purchases and payments of real estate and personal property, unless otherwise designated, shall be withdrawn.
- B. No claims shall be placed on any funds of the district organization by any district official who has been succeeded by a duly elected or appointed successor but shall forthwith turn over and surrender all such funds then in his or her possession.
- C. The Oklahoma District will not approve any loan that exceeds a properties' appraised value.
- D. In cases where there may be an urgent need in buying and/or selling of church properties, or placing of loans on church properties, the Executive Committee,

along with the Sectional Presbyter in whose section the property is located, with the pastor involved, and one (1) other pastor in that section be selected by above named, shall have the privilege of negotiating these matters, between regular board meetings.

- E. All offices which receive compensation as a District employee or that are elected by the District Convention shall have a thirty-day transition period between officers.

5. Pastoral & Ministerial Responsibilities

- A. All credentialed ministers who depart a place of ministry without making satisfactory stewardship arrangements for indebtedness shall be brought before the District Board.
- B. Any minister who has unpaid personal debts for a period of ninety (90) days without making satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, must meet the Executive Committee. Said minister shall be given sixty (60) days to make proper arrangements or their credential will be suspended until such arrangements are made.
- C. Any pastor having missed church payments for two (2) consecutive months shall be required to meet the District Board.

6. Department Responsibilities

- A. All departments of the Oklahoma District, when promoting any project that will exceed \$1,000.00, shall be required to present to the Executive Committee plans for their project and plans for raising the finances.
- B. The WM and YM Departments shall present an annual budget to the District Board at the November board meeting, to be approved by the board for the following year.

7. Local Church Responsibilities

Since the tithe is God's plan for financing His church, each church affiliated and associated with the Pentecostal Church of God is encouraged to support general and district ministries with the first fruits (10%) of their undesignated income. Undesignated income shall be defined as the total of all congregational income minus the costs of personnel compensation and all Missions offerings. Each church's first fruits shall be sent to their respective District Office with the District Office forwarding 1/2 of local church contribution to the general office. Districts with 35 churches or less will forward 1/3 of local contribution to the general office.

ARTICLE IX
District Ministry Meetings

1. Ordination Services

The District Board shall be authorized to schedule Ordination Services at regularly scheduled District Meetings and other special called services as deemed beneficial for both the District and the Ordinatees.

2. Minister's Retreat

The minister's retreat shall be on the first Monday in April or as schedule allows.

3. Camp Meeting

The Annual District Camp Meeting shall be held during the month of October. The dates, place, and selection of speakers shall be determined by the District Board.”

ARTICLE X
Missions Support

National and Foreign Missions

The Oklahoma District is a Missions minded district. Therefore, each minister and church are expected to assist the General Office in furthering National and Foreign Missions by regular and special contributions to same. The District Office shall assist by receiving and forwarding to the General Office all monies so designated.

ARTICLE XI
District Missions

1. Purpose

- A. Establish financial aid for the pioneering of new churches in the Oklahoma District and to assist in evangelism of the district through timely planning and development of new worship facilities and congregations.
- B. Administrate District Missions Churches.
- C. Support the General Office National Missions efforts in disaster relief by maintaining trailers, equipment, supplies and manpower to assist as called upon by the appropriate authorities.

2. Finance

- A. The funding for the Department of District Missions shall come from offerings, special meetings, and other voluntary support from the Oklahoma District, individuals, and churches.
- B. The recommended minimum contribution to the District Missions Department is five dollars (\$5.00) per month from each minister and ten dollars (\$10.00) per month from each church.

3. Church Construction, Renovation, and Repair

The Director of Missions shall collect the names of volunteers who would be able to donate their time for building new churches, remodeling churches, or for otherwise assisting where help is needed. The volunteers shall be classified according to their field of expertise and experience. Their contact information shall be maintained, enabling them to be notified of any project of the department, so they may help on said projects as their time allows.

4. District Missions Churches

- A. A District Missions Church is under the supervision of the District Missions Board.
- B. Any church whose membership falls to less than twelve (12) active voting members or who is not able to consistently meet their financial obligations shall be considered a District Missions Church.
- C. A District Missions Church may not seat a delegate at District Convention.

5. Missions Outreach Center (MOC)

- A. The primary focus of a MOC is to assist in meeting the needs of the poor, sick, and less fortunate in our local communities by providing for their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs as such provision and means are available.
- B. MOC's may or may not have traditional congregations or church services, and therefore are not required to function using traditional church structures and methods.
- C. MOC's shall have a Local Mission Director (aka SR. Pastor) appointed by the District Missions Board.
 - 1. Local Mission Director's shall be PCG credentialed ministers in good standing.
 - 2. One (1) Local Mission Director may be appointed over multiple MOC's if they are in close proximity to one another.
- D. Each MOC shall function with limited District Missions Board oversight.
 - 1. Each Local MOC Director, along with the District Bishop and District Missions Director shall establish in writing the specific operations plan for each MOC.

2. The operations plan, once approved by the District Missions Board, shall serve as the operating policies for that MOC.
- E. Each MOC, if not operated by a local PCG Church, shall be established as a Non-Profit Corporation having their own EIN, sales tax exemption, and other such legal requirements as may be deemed necessary by local, state, and federal laws.
- F. MOC's are subject to the General and District Bylaws where there are applicable to both churches and MOC's.
- G. MOC's shall be funded by donations, offerings, and other such voluntary support from individuals, churches, businesses, and the District or General Offices.

ARTICLE XII

Men's Ministries

1. Name

The Department of Men's Ministries shall be known as the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Men's Ministries.

2. Motto

The motto of the Men's Ministry shall be: "Take up his cross". (Matthew 16:23-25)

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Men's Ministries shall be to create a stronger bond of fellowship, to equip and empower men to be spiritual leaders in their homes, effective workers in their churches, and soul winners in the world.

4. Ministerial Relations

- A. The Men's Ministries shall cooperate with the District Board, the other ministries of the district, and the local churches and pastors to conduct business, generate resources, and carry out their ministry.
- B. The Men's Ministries shall cooperate with the General Officials and the General Men's Ministries. They shall support, at the discretion of the District MM Director and the District Executive Committee, the objectives and projects of the General Men's Ministries.

5. Men's Ministries Officers & Leadership Team

- A. The officers of the Oklahoma District Men's Ministries shall be the District Men's Ministries Director and the Regional Directors. They shall be called the District Men's Ministries Leadership Team.

- B. The Men's Ministries Leadership Team shall meet biannually or as often as needed to conduct business, plan events, etc.
- C. The officers of the Men's Ministries shall be amenable to the District Board and all Men's Ministry activities shall be under their supervision.
- D. All offices appointed by the District Men's Ministries Director shall serve at the discretion of the Men's Ministries Director and the District Executive Committee.
- E. All offices appointed by the District Men's Ministries Director shall end concurrent with the term of the Men's Ministries Director that made said appointment.

6. Regional Men's Ministries Director

- A. The Regional Men's Ministries Directors shall be ordained ministers, male, not less than thirty (30) years of age with at least five (5) years of experience in the active ministry. They shall have been in the Oklahoma District for at least one (1) year.
- B. The Regional Directors shall be appointed by the District Men's Ministries Director and approved by the District Executive Committee.
- C. They shall assist and support the Men's Ministries Director in fulfilling his vision for the Department of Men's Ministry.
- D. They shall promote Men's Ministries in their region and assist with the development and support of local Men's Ministries groups.
- E. They shall assist with other duties and/or responsibilities as may be reasonably required.

7. Finance

- A. The Department of Men's Ministries shall be supported by offerings, registration fees, other voluntary contributions, and local Men's Ministries group tithe.
- B. Local Men's Ministries groups shall tithe to the District Men's Ministry from all fund raisers and support events.
- C. Offerings shall be received at all Men's Ministries functions for the support of the department.
- D. An offering for the District Director or Regional Director shall be received when they minister as a representative of their office in a local church. A tithe of that offering will be sent by the Directors to the District Office for the support of Men's Ministries.

8. Local Groups

The local church is encouraged to form a Men's Ministries group. The local group may have officers selected according to the method used by the respective local

church.

9. Miscellaneous

- A. An Oklahoma District Men's Ministries Registration program shall be established to build a network of men and resources within our district. Those registered shall receive emails from the Director, as well as newsletters, mailings, and other materials to promote Men's Ministries and strengthen the men of the district.
- B. The regional divisions of the District shall be established by the District Board in cooperation with the Director of Men's Ministries and may be adjusted when deemed necessary by the District Board.

ARTICLE XIII

Women's Ministries

1. Name, Motto, Slogan

- A. The Women's Ministries shall be known as the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Women's Ministries.
- B. The motto of the WM shall be: "Laborers together with God"(I Cor. 3:9).
- C. The slogan of the WM shall be: Jesus, Others, Yourself.

2. Purpose

The PCG Oklahoma District Women's Ministries shall have a Missions focus at home and abroad. We shall promote and spread the gospel through effective evangelistic efforts and by means of material support. We shall develop and equip women to fulfill their ministry in the Body of Christ and shall invest in the training and education of both current and future leaders.

3. Covenant

The women of the PCG Oklahoma District Women's Ministries do commit and agree to unite and work together for the advancement of the gospel of Christ, through the endued power of the Holy Ghost, absolutely unwavering in our alignment with the Word of God.

4. Ministerial Relationships

- A. The Women's Ministries shall cooperate with the District Board, the other ministries of the district, and the local churches and pastors to conduct business, generate resources, and advance the kingdom of God.
- B. The Women's Ministries shall cooperate with the General Officials and the General Women's Ministries, and shall support, at the discretion of the District WM Director and the District Executives, the objectives and projects of the

General Women's Ministries.

5. Women's Ministries Officers & Leadership Team

- A. The officers of the Oklahoma District Women's Ministries shall be the District Women's Ministries Director, the District Women's Ministries Secretary, WM Executive Committee members, and one Sectional Director for each section of the district. They shall be called the District WM Leadership Team.
- B. The WM Executive Committee shall consist of the District WM Director, District WM Secretary, District Bishop's wife, and up to three additional women of the Oklahoma District who have a passion for WM's and a desire to work for the future of the department.
- C. The WM Leadership Team shall cooperate with the District Board and all WM activities shall be under their supervision.
- D. All WM Executive Offices appointed by the District WM Director shall serve at the discretion of the WM Director and the District Executive Committee.
- E. All appointed WM offices shall end concurrent with the term of the WM Director that made said appointment.

6. District WM Secretary

- A. The District WM Secretary shall be qualified for office by the same qualifications as the Sectional Director. In addition, she must have basic computer skills, with a working knowledge of common business programs. She also shall be experienced in modern church business practices and methodology. She shall be appointed by the District WM Director and be approved by the District Executive Committee.
- B. She shall keep the minutes and maintain an official record of all WM business and other meetings.
- C. She shall maintain an up-to-date record of the names and addresses of the sectional leaders and shall send out notices at the direction of the WM Director.
- D. She shall work one (1) day per month at the district office with the District WM Director.
- E. She shall perform any other function usual and/or customary for the WM Secretary, or such as may be directed by the Director of Women's Ministries or the District Board.

7. WM Executive Committee Members

- A. Executive Committee Members, other than the WM Secretary and the Bishop's wife, shall meet the same qualifications as the Sectional Director. They shall be appointed by the District WM Director and approved by the District Executive Committee.

- B. Executive Committee Members shall assist and support the WM Director in fulfilling her vision for the Women's Ministries Department.
- C. They shall attend quarterly business meetings and shall likewise support and attend all other WM district services and functions, except in the case of emergencies or extenuating circumstances.

8. Sectional Women's Ministries Director

- A. The WM Sectional Director shall be a Christian lady who has a passion for Women's Ministries and a desire to serve both her section and her district. She must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. She must live an exemplary conservative Christian example and shall demonstrate a sanctified lifestyle separated from the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and any other vice that would be destructive to her witness as a Pentecostal leader. She shall have experience in church leadership and have a good report in her section. She shall have been in the district for at least one (1) year. She shall be elected by the same process as the Sectional Presbyterian and shall serve a two (2) year term.
- B. In the event a Sectional Director's office is vacated, the District WM Director shall appoint a qualified replacement to fulfill the unexpired term. The new appointment shall be approved by the WM Executives, District Bishop, and the Sectional Presbyterian of said section.
- C. The Sectional WM Director shall assist and cooperate with the District WM Director and all other officers of the WM's. She shall coordinate all sectional WM Rallies/events and send announcements to promote both sectional and district WM events and activities to the local churches, pastors, local WM Directors, and all other PCG or fellowshiping ministers in her section. She shall assist with other duties and responsibilities as may be reasonably required.
- D. She shall be expected to attend scheduled meetings of the District WM Leadership Team. She shall likewise be expected to support and attend other WM district functions, except in the case of emergencies or extenuating circumstances.
- E. Should an elected Sectional Director cease to meet the District Bylaw qualifications of the Sectional Director's Office they may be removed from office by the following process:
 - 1. Call a WM Leadership Team meeting and conduct a secret ballot vote to remove said individual from office. Two thirds (2/3) vote of those present will be required to advance the process.
 - 2. The WM Executives must then present to the District Board the minutes of the meeting documenting the vote and request that the District Board remove said individual from office.
 - 3. The District Board will then process the request as a motion subject to the governing rules of the Board.

9. Finance

- A. All local WM groups shall tithe on all monies received from the proceeds of WM projects. Said tithes shall be paid to the district WM office. Should there be no working project, let a minimum of \$5.00/month be sent.
- B. Each WM group or church shall send \$5.00/month designated as Office Expense to the WM District Office to help the support the WM budget.
- C. In order to help implement and promote Women's Ministries, the second Sunday in each January shall be designated as WM Day. A special offering for Women's Ministries shall be taken and the receipts distributed as follows:
 1. Fifty percent (50%) to the Women's Ministries General Office.
 2. Twenty-five percent (25%) to the District Women's Ministries.
 3. Twenty-five percent (25%) to the local church Women's Ministries.

ARTICLE XIV

Youth Ministries

1. Name

The Youth Ministries shall be known as the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Youth Ministries.

2. Motto

The motto of the Youth Ministries shall be "NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS."

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Youth Ministries shall be to encourage one another in the work of the Lord; to develop our varied activities in order that souls shall be converted to the Lord Jesus Christ and believers baptized in the Holy Ghost through our work for Him; and through our activities and contests to work to promote fellowship among God's people, to promote the Sunday school, church and young people's work of the local churches, and to further the program of the district YM.

4. Covenant

Whereas, God is calling the youth of the world to a personal experience of salvation, through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, and is then baptizing them into the Holy Ghost; and, Whereas, He is filling their hearts with a passionate love for souls, and with a holy fire and zeal for service and sacrifice; Therefore we the Pentecostal Department of Youth Ministries of the Pentecostal Church of God, do hereby pledge ourselves to a complete commitment to our Lord; and recognizing the severity of the times, we hereby unite ourselves to do battle against Satan and his snares, and will

not be found in such places of immoral entertainment and exhibition that bring dishonor to the Kingdom of God; and, knowing that Satan will do all he can to hinder us, we will keep ourselves free from all forms of gambling, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and drugs that are physically and mentally harmful; and will avoid malicious talk and/or vulgar communications; and we will keep ourselves from the influence of, and personal involvement in, witchcraft, astrology and the occult, from types of music which suggest behavior not conducive to wholesome Christianity; and from involvement in premarital, impure and/or unnatural sex; and Since our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost, we hereby pledge to clothe them with apparel which is neither suggestive or provocative, but which attracts others to our Lord rather than to our persons; and, we do further agree to cooperate with our ministers and leaders, and with both our general and district officials, for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel.

5. Ministerial Relationships

- A. The PCG Oklahoma District Youth Ministries shall cooperate with the District Board, the other ministries of the district, and the local churches and pastors to conduct business, generate resources, and advance the kingdom of God.
- B. They shall cooperate with the General Officials and the General Youth Ministries. They shall support, at the discretion of the District Youth Ministries Director and the District Executives, the objectives and projects of the General Youth Ministries.

6. Youth Ministries Officers and Leadership Team

- A. The officers of the Oklahoma District Youth Ministries shall be the District Youth Ministries Director, District YM Secretary, Youth Ministries Executive Committee Members, one (1) Sectional Youth Director from each section, and Specialized Ministry Directors. They shall be called the Youth Ministries Leadership Team.
- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of the District YM Director, District YM Secretary, and up to 3 additional people who have a heart for Youth Ministries and a desire to work for the future of the department.
- C. The YM officers shall cooperate with the District Board and all YM activities shall be under their supervision.
- D. All YM Offices appointed by the District YM Director shall serve at the discretion of the YM Director and the District Executive Committee.
- E. All appointed YM offices shall end concurrent with the term of the YM Director that made said appointment.

7. District Youth Ministries Secretary

- A. The District YM Secretary shall be qualified for office by the same qualifications as the Sectional Youth Director. In addition, they must have basic computer skills, with a working knowledge of common business programs.

They shall be appointed by the District YM Director and be approved by the District Executive Committee.

- B. The YM Secretary shall keep a record of all district YM meetings.
- C. The YM Secretary shall attend audits and such other meetings as might be requested by the District Board or District Executive Committee.

8. Youth Ministries Executive Committee Members

- A. Executive Committee Members shall meet the same qualifications as the Sectional Youth Director. They shall be appointed by the District YM Director and approved by the District Executive Committee.
- B. Executive Committee Members shall assist and support the YM Director in fulfilling his/her vision for the Youth Ministries Department.
- C. They shall attend quarterly business meetings and shall likewise support and attend all other YM district services and functions, except in the case of emergencies or extenuating circumstances.

9. Sectional Youth Director

- A. The Sectional YM Director shall be a Christian man or woman who has a passion for Youth Ministries and a desire to serve both their section and their district. They must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. They must live an exemplary Christian example and shall demonstrate a sanctified lifestyle separated from the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and any other vice that would be destructive to their witness as a Pentecostal leader. They shall have experience in church leadership and have a good report in their section. They shall have been in the district for at least one (1) year and shall be elected by the same process as the Sectional Presbyter to serve a term of two (2) years.
- B. In the event a Sectional Youth Director office is vacated, the District YM Director shall appoint a qualified replacement to fulfill the unexpired term. The new appointment shall be approved by the YM Executives, District Bishop, and the Sectional Presbyter of said section.
- C. The Sectional Youth Director shall assist and cooperate with the District YM Director and all other officers of the YM Department.
- D. They shall coordinate all sectional YM Rallies/events and send announcements to local church YM Directors, pastors, and churches.
- E. They shall assist with other duties and/or responsibilities as may be reasonably required.
- F. They shall be expected to attend scheduled meetings of the District YM Leadership Team. They shall likewise be expected to support and attend other YM district functions, except in the case of emergencies or extenuating circumstances.

- G. Should an elected Sectional Youth Director cease to meet the District Bylaw qualifications of the Sectional Youth Directors Office they may be removed by the following process:
1. Call a YM Leadership Team meeting and conduct a secret ballot vote to remove said individual from office. Two thirds (2/3) vote of those present will be required to advance the process.
 2. The YM Executives must then present to the District Board the minutes of the meeting documenting the vote and request that the District Board remove said individual from office.
 3. The District Board will then process the request as a motion subject to the governing rules of the Board.

10. Specialized Ministry Directors

- A. Specialized youth ministries may be formed as needed by the District Youth Director and approved by the District Board.
- B. The Specialized Ministry Directors shall meet the same qualifications as the Sectional Youth Director. They shall be appointed by the District YM Director and approved by the District Executive Committee.
- C. They shall coordinate such activities and other work as may be needed for their assigned ministry and shall be under the direction of the District YM Director.
- D. They shall attend quarterly business meetings and shall likewise support and attend all other YM district services and functions, except in the case of emergencies or extenuating circumstances.

11. Local Church YM Ministries

The local church Youth Ministries shall be structured, organized, and conducted according to their local church bylaws and the local church leadership.

12. Finance

- A. Each church shall pay five dollars (\$5.00) per month to the district YM office for office expenses.
- B. No local church will be allowed to seat a church delegate at District Convention unless all District and General Bylaw required YM fees, dues, and assessments are paid for the current year. The District YM Secretary will provide a complete list of fees, dues, and assessments each year in the month of January.

ARTICLE XV

Senior Adult Ministries

1. Name

The Senior Adult Ministries shall be known as the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Senior Adult Ministries.

2. Purpose

The Senior Adult Ministries shall serve the ministerial needs of senior adults working in cooperation with the general and district officials and the local pastors.

3. Leadership

A. There shall be a District Director appointed by the District Board.

B. There shall be one (1) chairman in each local church (to be appointed by the pastor) who shall be a member in good standing in said local church.

4. Membership

Local group membership shall be open to those who at least sixty (60) years of age.

ARTICLE XVI

Campground

Governing Committee

Be it resolved that the head of each department and the executive committee, along with the caretaker be designated as the campground committee, whereas all improvements, buildings, recreation areas, etc., shall be approved by the campground committee before beginning any project.

ARTICLE XVII

Local Church

1. Organization

A. Each church must be set in order by the PCG Oklahoma District and have a certificate of fellowship from the Pentecostal Church of God.

B. Each church is permitted to have its own bylaws, but these shall not conflict with the bylaws of this district, and before they shall be adopted, they must be approved by the District Board.

- C. Each church shall elect its own pastor, and any other officers it may deem necessary to successfully carry on its work.
- D. All Oklahoma District Charter Churches shall be required to have their own Employers Identification Number (EIN), Oklahoma State Sales Tax Exemption, and be incorporated as a Non-Profit Corporation.
- E. Each church shall cooperate with the General Office by completing an “Annual Local Church Report”.

2. Membership

- A. Membership in the local church shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:5-8), and who voluntarily subscribe to the bylaws as herein set forth.

Standards of Membership:

- 1. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration. (New Birth) (John 1:1-3; 33:8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).
 - 2. Either have or be actively engaged in seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4.
 - 3. Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Romans 6:4; 3:14; Ephesians 4:17- 32; 5:1; 2:15; 1 John 1:6-7).
 - 4. Fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the bylaws.
 - 5. Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his or her ability.
 - 6. Must be at least sixteen (16) years of age or older.
- B. Persons desiring to become active members in the church shall make the fact known with written application to the pastor, who shall, with the board, examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
 - C. The Membership Roll shall consist of all those who meet the standards for membership, and those whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the church at the time the church was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time.
 - D. The pastor and board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the church at any announced board meeting. They shall add to the roll new member’s names and shall remove from the roll of active members the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have become disqualified for membership.

Process of removing a name from the membership roll for cause:

- 1. Anyone whose name is to be removed from the membership roll shall be notified of the considered action by the board through certified letter with a return receipt required.

2. If an appeal is made to the board, and/or a request is made to appear and represent themselves, such appeal shall be made prior to, and appearance shall be made at a scheduled board meeting.
 3. If the board votes to remove the member after such appeal is heard, such action shall be considered final unless other extenuating circumstances are brought before the board for consideration, or an appeal is made to the District Board (District Bylaws Addendum I).
- E. New members of local churches must be members at least thirty (30) days before being allowed to vote in church business meetings.
 - F. Any member of the church who shall willfully absent themselves from the regular services for a period of four (4) consecutive weeks, or who has withdrawn financial support of tithes and offerings, or who may be out of harmony with the church's teachings or its ministries, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, or who shall be under charges of misconduct, shall be temporarily suspended from membership pending investigation and final disposition in their case.
 - G. Members who have been willfully absent for four (4) or more consecutive weeks, and/or have withdrawn tithing and/or other financial support, shall not be reinstated to full membership privileges until they have attended six (6) consecutive weeks thereafter, and are contributing to the overall financial support of the church's ministry through tithes and offerings.
 - H. If a member is willfully absent for three (3) consecutive months, that member's name shall be stricken from the membership roll.
 - I. Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member after proper process. All charges of misconduct shall be made in writing and signed by the pastor and church board.

(Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11; Galatians 1:8, 9; Titus 3: 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6).
 - J. No person who practices any form of homosexuality or sexual perversion, use of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or gambling in any form, including social gambling such as horse racing, lotteries, bingo, raffles, etc. shall be accepted into church membership. Anyone found to be doing any of the above shall be dismissed. (Galatians 5:19-21)
 - K. The pastor and saved members of his family shall be members of the church, with full membership privileges. They shall be accepted in the same manner as other members, by making application. If the pastor leaves the local church, he, his spouse, and children who reside in their home become ineligible to vote.
 - L. Members in good standing who may wish to sever their relationship with church, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may

apply to the secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the pastor and board, said letter to be signed by the pastor and secretary of the church.

3. Pastor

- A. The pastor is designated in the Scripture as the head of the church, under the leadership of the Lord Jesus, and is referred to under the title "Pastor" in Ephesians 4:11, "Overseer" in Acts 20:28 and "Shepherd" in 1 Peter 5:13.
- B. The pastor shall be chairman of the official board and shall preside over all business meetings of the church. He shall be the general supervisor of all activities of the church and shall be an ex officio member of all other boards and committees.
- C. He shall perform all those duties which properly belong to the Scriptural ideal for a pastor.
- D. It is recommended to the local church that in case a pastor is dismissed from his duties, he be given at least thirty (30) days of notice. If a pastor resigns his pastorate, he shall give the church at least thirty (30) days of notice. The resigning pastor shall receive the tithes for thirty (30) days, or until a new pastor is elected, whichever occurs first.
- E. Any Senior Pastor resigning from their position shall be required to notify the Sectional Presbyter and District Office within twenty-four (24) hours of said resignation.
- F. Whereas tithes are the biblical foundation for the ministry, and offerings for the church, and since the welfare and livelihood of the pastor is dependent upon this very thing, and is considered personal, the local church or church treasurer shall not use, keep or disburse tithes for maintaining the church, etc., either by part or percentage, without consent of the presiding pastor.
- G. The pastor shall be a member of the Pentecostal Church of God in good standing, should his relationship with the organization be severed, he shall automatically relinquish the pastorate of the local church the same day.

4. Pastoral Elections

- A. The District Bishop shall be notified of all pastoral elections, and such elections shall be conducted by a district official, or anyone so designated by the District Bishop and respective Sectional Presbyters.
- B. Announcements shall be made in at least three (3) regular church services prior to such elections, and the church shall receive a free-will offering for the presiding district officer.
- C. The pastor shall be a credentialed minister with the Pentecostal Church of God and shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting constituency of the members present for their first election to a church. Thereafter, only a majority of the voting membership present will be necessary to retain them.

- D. The pastor shall be elected for a term of one (1) year on the first election, at which time an election shall be held to determine whether the pastor shall continue for another term. The second and successive terms thereafter may be for an indefinite term or a term of years as set by the church body. He may be elected for as many terms as the church shall decide.
- E. Be it recommended that churches have no more than three (3) pastoral candidates try out before they have a vote.
- F. All resumes must go through the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter will then submit all resumes to the church board and the church board along with the Sectional Presbyter will make the decision on who to call.
- G. When any local church fails to elect a pastor after reasonable effort, the District Bishop and Sectional Presbyter shall have the right to appoint a pastor for a period of not more than one (1) year. Whether the pastor is appointed by the District Bishop or the district, it shall not be for a term of more than one (1) year.
- H. After a pastoral election has been properly announced and held according to the bylaws, said election shall be final. If there is a need to change results of such election, it must be approved by the Sectional Presbyter and the District Bishop.
- I. No minister whose credential fees, tithes, and dues are not paid up to date shall be considered for the pastorate of our churches.

5. Finance

- A. All monies given unto any church (and not designated as a loan) will not be refunded in any case, even if the church closes or sells.
- B. Before any mortgage shall be placed on any church property deeded to this district or the general organization, said mortgage shall be approved by the District Board.
- C. When a church request emergency assistance from the district, the District Executive Committee will evaluate the record of the pastor, the finances of the church, and the maintenance of the grounds and buildings. If found to be acceptable they will proceed to do what is necessary by signing a loan for the church or assisting with finances as the District is capable.
 - 1. The pastor and church secretary of the church who receives the emergency assistance shall be required to report to the District Office on a monthly basis with a written report of the pastor's church activities and the financial records of the church. Said reports shall be reviewed quarterly by the Executive Committee for a period of one year.
 - 2. Churches or pastors who will not comply with the above requirements will be brought under the National Missions Board according to the bylaws.

6. Church Employees and Volunteers

- A. All local church employees and officers shall be required to have a background check.
- B. All local church workers and volunteers, who work with or have accessibility to children or youth, shall be required to have a background check prior to performing their duties.
- C. The background checks must be kept private and stored in a secure and confidential location.
- D. In the event of an accusation or charge of any unlawful act being made against any employee, worker, or volunteer, the pastor and/or church leadership must report it immediately; first to the proper legal authorities and second to the district office.
- E. Should any employee's, worker's, or volunteer's background check reveal information or crimes involving children, sex, violence, arrests, deferred sentences, convictions, or property, they shall be suspended from their office or position and a report made at once to the district office for a final decision regarding their future ministry.
- F. When forming organizations within the local church, such as Youth Ministries, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, etc., all leaders of such organizations shall be members of the local church.

7. Emergency Situations

- A. If any pastor, official, member or any other person or persons of any congregation or church should be found to be conspiring, plotting or planning in any manner against the welfare of the Pentecostal Church of God, for the purpose of gaining control of any real estate or personal property of any congregation, the Pentecostal Church of God, or any other situation should arise that might require prompt and definite action, the General Bishop or the District Bishop shall, and are authorized and directed to promptly take possession of said property or properties in the name of the Pentecostal Church of God and retain them until the emergency has passed.
- B. Should any situation arise in the local church that endangers the church or property which cannot be settled by the pastor, church board or the congregation satisfactorily to the parties concerned, the District Board shall have the right to take over the control and supervision of the church.

8. Church Closure

When any partially deeded local church ceases to function as a Pentecostal Church of God, the title of said property shall immediately go to the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District Inc. Any general or district official shall have the right to take possession.

9. Withdrawal from Fellowship

Any church set in order with the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District, who desires to withdraw from fellowship shall have a duly called business meeting with the District Bishop and Sectional Presbyter present, the District Bishop to act as chairman.

SECTION 3: RULES & PROCEDURES

Standing Rules for District Convention

RULES RELATED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION

1. **VOTING MEMBERS:** The voting members of the convention, when duly registered, shall be:
 - a. All ordained, licensed or exhorter ministers who are current with their credentials and tithes;
 - b. Saved spouses of the above ministers;
 - c. Spouses of deceased ministers who continue to maintain active membership in a local Pentecostal Church of God; and
 - d. Delegates from chartered churches on the basis of one (1) delegate per fifty (50), or fraction thereof, in average Sunday morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Local Church Report. These delegates must be members of a local church and at least eighteen (18) years of age.
2. **REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** All members entitled to vote at the convention who are present shall register with the Registration Committee. The Registration Committee shall report the number of voting members of the convention who are registered and present at the opening of the convention. The Registration Committee shall be authorized to proceed with the certification of additional voting members who may arrive throughout the convention without further reporting to the convention unless such a report is requested by the chair.
3. **BADGES:** Registration badges are to be displayed by any voting member during the convention business meetings.
4. **NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS:** The report of the Registration Committee will establish the number of voters who are eligible to vote during the convention. If less than or equal to that number are reported as having voted on any ballot, the ballot shall be considered valid.
5. **VOTING MEMBER SEATING:** Voting members of the convention shall be seated in rows and sections designated by the chairman. Only persons seated in those rows and sections will be counted.
6. **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** The chair shall appoint three (3) parliamentarians to serve the convention.
7. **TIMEKEEPERS:** The chair shall appoint a committee of two (2) to serve as

timekeepers during the business meetings of the convention. One timekeeper shall be responsible for keeping time on individual speeches and the other shall be responsible for keeping the gross time in debate.

RULES RELATED TO MOTIONS

- 8. PROPOSING RESOLUTIONS:** All resolutions for consideration by the District Convention must be processed by the District Board who serves as the Resolutions Committee for the convention. All resolutions shall be signed by the author and must be received by the District Secretaries Office no later than 30 days prior to the first day of convention. All resolutions shall be made available electronically to all ministers not later than two weeks prior to the start of convention.

RULES RELATED TO DEBATE

- 9. TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES:** Voting members of the convention who desire to speak shall first rise, address the chair and wait to be recognized. No person shall speak more than three (3) times on any given item of business and shall speak only on the subject under discussion. Speakers shall be limited to three (3) minutes the first time, two (2) minutes the second time and one (1) minute the third time. When two or more persons seek recognition at the same time, the chair shall recognize first the one farthest from the chair. No voting member is entitled to the floor a second time in debate on the same motion as long as there are other members who have not spoken on the subject and who desire to do so.
- 10. TIME LIMIT ON EACH DEBATABLE MOTION:** No resolution or other debatable main motion shall be on the floor for longer than one (1) hour. At the end of one (1) hour, debate and further amendment of the main question shall cease and the chair shall put an immediate vote on all pending motions.
- 11. SECONDARY MOTIONS AFTER DEBATE:** When recognized, a member may speak for or against a pending question or offer any other motion that may be in order at the time, but a member may not make a speech and then conclude by offering a motion.
- 12. COURTESY AND CIVILITY:** Speakers shall maintain a courteous tone and shall not make indecorous remarks about another member. They shall not question the motives of another member.
- 13. AUDIBLE EXPRESSIONS:** No audible expressions are permitted while another is speaking, and no person shall request the floor while another is speaking except to raise a privileged question. In the interest of time, members shall not applaud

speeches.

14. **RULE OF ALTERNATES:** Upon being recognized by the chair, a speaker shall begin by declaring whether he is for or against the question. As much as possible the chair shall let the floor alternate between speakers for and against a question. When as many as three (3) persons have spoken in succession on the same side of a question being debated, if there is no one wishing to speak on the other side of the question, the chair shall deem that the assembly has ordered debate be closed and shall put a vote on the pending question.
15. **MAKER TO SPEAK FIRST:** The author of any resolution or other debatable motion shall have the right to speak first on the motion. This does not count as one of the three times to speak and may be no longer than 3 minutes.
16. **REPETITIVE DEBATE:** In the opinion of the chair, if debate becomes repetitive, the chair has the option of asking the assembly if they are ready to close debate (which requires a two-thirds [2/3] vote) and take a vote on the pending question.

RULES RELATED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

17. **MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION:** Members of the assembly who wish to move that the debate be closed and a vote be ordered on the pending question shall not call out “Question, Question,” but shall wait to be recognized by the chair and shall move that debate be closed (move the previous question). A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required to close debate on any pending question that is debatable or amendable.
18. **AGENDA FORMULATION:** The order of business shall generally proceed as follows:

Call to Order: The meeting shall be called to order by the chairman.

Report of the Registration Committee

Report of the Convention Standing Rules of Order Committee

Reports of District Officers:

- Report of District Bishop
- Report of District Secretary
- Report of District Presbyter

Financial Reports:

- District Administrative Financial Report
- Report of Auditors

Reports of Ministries and Directors:

- Report of Director of Finances
- Report of National Missions Director
- Report of Youth Ministries Director
- Youth Ministries Financial Report
- Report of Women’s Ministries Director
- Women’s Ministries Financial Report
- Report of Men’s Ministries Director
- Report of Senior Adult Ministries Director

Reports of Committees:

- Report of Resolutions Committee
- Election of Officers

New Business

Adjournment

19. **ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA:** The presiding officer shall formulate and adjust the agenda each day as required. Therefore, the printed agenda is for guidance only and shall not be considered as either general or special orders.
20. **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:** During the proceedings of the convention, the “request for information” (asking a question) will not be considered a privileged motion. Therefore, delegates seeking the floor to make a “request for information” (ask a question) will not be given any special preference in recognition but may obtain the floor in the same manner as those wishing to speak in debate.

RULES RELATED TO ELECTIONS AND VOTING

21. **ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS:**
The election of officers and directors shall take place after three (3) resolutions are completed. All officers and directors shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. These elections shall be conducted using a secret ballot. The first three ballots shall be nominating ballots. After three ballots have been cast with no election, only the two (2) highest names shall remain on the ballot to be voted upon in future balloting. Any votes for anyone other than the two highest nominees shall not be counted in the total votes cast. After the fourth (4th) ballot, if one of the two remaining nominees withdraws, a yes / no vote shall be taken on the lone remaining

nominee. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is still required in such a situation for election. Not more than ten (10) ballots, including nominating ballots, shall be cast upon any group of nominees. In the event that no election has been reached after the tenth ballot, the nominations shall be reopened, and new ballots shall be cast. No office shall be filled by acclamation.

22. **TELLERS:** During secret ballot elections or votes, the chair shall appoint tellers who shall count the ballots in an adjoining area. They shall then report the results of the vote to the chair and the chair shall report them to the convention.

RULES RELATED TO OTHER CONVENTION BUSINESS

23. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** All pagers, phones, and other electronic devices shall be silenced during the convention business meetings. No recordings of the convention business meetings shall be allowed except the official recording to assist the District Secretary in producing the minutes.
24. **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the Pentecostal Church of God Oklahoma District and these standing rules.
25. **AMENDMENT OR SUSPENSION OF THESE STANDING RULES:** While bylaws may not be suspended (unless provided for), any of these standing rules (except one prescribing the parliamentary authority) may be suspended by a majority vote without debate for a particular specified purpose. To suspend a convention standing rule and also the general parliamentary rules normally applying to the same situation requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote. A two-thirds (2/3) vote will also be required to amend or repeal these standing rules.

ADDENDUM I

THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING AN ACCUSATION

INTRODUCTION:

The issue of reconciliation is the mandate of Christ to His Church. (“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV) Reconciliation is the work of God. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9 NKJV) According to Dr. Kenneth Newberger, (2009) “The term “sons of God” conveys the idea that they share in the essence or nature of the one to whom they are said to be related.” (p.16) Reconciliation is rooted in the nature of God and is the essence of His work in humanity. Reconciliation is the ultimate goal of a process, which includes receiving, handling and processing accusations. Every conflict in the life of a Christ-follower should lead towards total reconciliation within the Body of Christ and in relationship to our Heavenly Father.

Spiritual reconciliation is a weighty matter. The work begins with personal spiritual integrity followed by much fasting and prayer. The process must be dealt with in the highest integrity of character. There must exist proper documentation in order to protect all parties. Church leadership must not be forsaken in the handling of an accusation. Accusers and accused must be treated fairly and impartially.

The manner of handling an accusation must be standardized across the covenant community of the PCG. A system of consistency protects all parties and ensures less errors, neglect and mishandling of accusations. Also, standardization creates a culture of organizational integrity.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:

“Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.” (1 Timothy 5:19-21)

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1)

“And we urge you brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20)

“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon you. On their part, He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’ Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good as to a faithful Creator.” (1 Peter 4:14 – 19)

PROCEDURAL POLICY

The leadership of the Pentecostal Church of God recognizes its responsibility to exercise Biblical authority in the form of discipline. Disciplinary action should always honor God, follow Scriptural truth, maintain purity of intention, seek reconciliation, and safeguard the integrity and purity of ministry.

Section 1: Accountability of Ministers

All ministers are accountable to their respective district board in every matter of conduct and doctrine. No accusations or charges against any credentialed minister shall be considered unless the entire procedure outlined within the General Bylaws is adhered to. Violations resulting in disciplinary action include lack of compliance of the Biblical Standards for Ministry (Article II of General Bylaws).

Section 2: Definitions

- A. Accusation - Any allegation of misconduct or failure to uphold the doctrine of the Pentecostal Church of God.
- B. Charge - The proper documentation of at least two accusations.
- C. Minister - Any minister holding credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God.
- D. Writing or Written - An original written document. Email, text, facsimile or other electronic communication shall not suffice as writing.
- E. Suspension - Termination of all ministry activities within the Pentecostal Church of God; remaining current on all ministerial financial and reporting obligations and remaining under the jurisdiction of the presiding district until a resolution of all charges has been reached.
- F. Reconcilable – A settled dispute, action bringing differences into agreement or harmony (Differing parties becoming amicable).
- G. Contrition – Sincere penitence or remorse. A true purpose to amend actions that have been confessed.
- H. Restoration – The action necessary to bring a minister to the place of health in order to return to the original position of ministry.

Section 3: Procedures

In all actions other than those initiated by a district board, the following procedure shall be strictly adhered to:

- A. All accusations against any minister shall be made in writing in the format required, signed by the accuser and submitted to the District Bishop. Any person making any accusations against a credentialed minister of the PCG must follow the process set forth in this article, except in the case of child abuse or neglect. All legal requirements and bylaws concerning child abuse and neglect must be followed at all times.
- B. The accuser must meet with the District Bishop, at a time and location selected by the bishop, and complete and sign the accusation form. If the accuser is not willing to complete and sign the accusation form, the matter will be immediately dropped.
- C. If the accuser does not meet with the District Bishop and complete and sign the form, the accuser must be informed that the matter cannot proceed. The accuser must also be informed that the accusation is and must remain confidential and not disclosed to third persons.
- D. The District Bishop must inform the accuser that a sole accusation against a spiritual leader cannot be acted upon. (1 Timothy 5:19) If there is only one accusation, the district officials shall keep the information on file following the command of 1 Timothy 5:19-21. An exception to this shall be made when prevailing evidence exists such as photographs, witnesses, video, etc.
- E. If the accusation is against a district executive officer, the accuser shall immediately notify the assistant General Bishop.
- F. The district officials shall immediately create a file for all accusations and charges against any minister and forward the information to the General Secretary.
- G. When two or more properly documented accusations are made against a minister, those making the accusations shall meet with the district executive committee, at a time and location selected by the committee, in order to ascertain the facts of the matter. In the event the accusers fail to meet as requested by the committee the charges shall be dropped.
- H. The District Bishop shall provide written notice to the accused minister of the meeting described in subparagraph "G" providing at least one-day notice and no more than five days' notice. A documentation form shall be utilized for responses to accusations which shall be completed in writing by the accused minister and provided to the District Bishop.
- I. After the three meetings, the District Executive Committee shall determine if the accusation shall be made a formal charge.
- J. If a formal charge is made, the investigation team can be formed.
- K. At any time, the district executive committee may take one or more of the following actions on a charge:

1. At the request of the accuser, accused minister or District Bishop and at the sole discretion of the district executive committee, temporarily suspend the proceeding and refer the matter for consultation with the Ministry Relations Department, as selected by the General Board.
 2. Immediately suspend the minister until final resolution of the charges. The district shall immediately notify the Office of the General Secretary of any minister placed on suspension.
 3. Attempt reconciliation between the accusers and the minister. If in the sole discretion of the district executive committee, reconciliation is reached between the accusers and the minister, the committee shall not proceed with the process but refer the matter to the Ministry Relations Department. In the event that after referral to the Ministry Relations Department the parties remain irreconcilable, the Ministry Relation Department shall refer the matter back to the District executive committee for further proceedings.
- L. If a formal charge is filed and reconciliation between the accusers and the minister cannot be reached, the Ministry Relations Department shall refer the matter back to the district executive committee for further proceedings and the District Bishop shall appoint a team of three qualified persons to investigate the charges. The investigation team shall appoint a chairperson who shall report their findings and recommendations to the district board. The investigation team shall hear no testimony except that which bears directly on the written charges. The chairman shall enforce this rule. The members of the investigation team shall maintain complete confidentiality with respect to the accusations, discussions, evidence and findings.
- M. Upon completion of the work of the investigation team, the district board shall hear from the accusers, the accused and the chairman of the investigation team at a time and location to be determined by the district board after no less than ten (10) days written notice to the accusers, minister and chairman of the investigation team. The district board shall evaluate the situation and determine the appropriate course of action. The district board shall have the prerogative to request consultation from the Ministry Relations Department.
- N. If the district board concludes that the accused minister confesses, repents and shows evidence of contrition, the district board shall determine the next steps of the process. Programs of restoration shall be established, and recommendations can be made by the Ministry Relations Department and enforced by the district board. Ministers placed in a restoration program shall be considered on suspension as defined herein. If charges are substantiated and considered of sufficient merit, the culpable minister can, at the sole discretion of the district board, be dropped from the ranks of credentialed ministers.
- O. The district board shall determine periods of restoration except in cases that have been submitted to the Ministry Relations Department. When the restoration process has been successfully completed, the minister shall be considered in good standing and active status restored.
- P. If the district board determines that the charges are unsubstantiated, the accusers

shall be required to meet the district board for full accountability of their actions. The false accusers shall be required to submit to the same process of discipline.

- Q. The process of mediation/restoration shall be extended to members of local churches. Members of the local church must follow this process:
1. The member must appeal to the local church defined leadership (board. Etc.)
 2. If mediation/restoration cannot be reached through the local church, the member may address the matter to the district board.
 3. The decision of the district board shall be final.
 4. All chartered churches shall carry this provision in their local church bylaws.

Section 4: Appeal Process

The appeal process shall be:

- A. There shall be no appeal heard that has not been submitted to the Department of Ministerial Relations for possible mediation.
- B. Any appeal of a decision made by a district board shall be made within thirty days to the office of the General Bishop. The General Bishop shall notify the national board of appeals. This board shall be nominated by the General Council, elected by the General Board and consist of five individuals, with two alternates. These members shall be trained and competent to serve in such a capacity. A district board shall have the privilege of submitting individuals to the General Council for consideration.
- C. The national board of appeals shall hear appeals from credentialed ministers. Their decision shall be final in all matters.
- D. Once an appeal has been filed it can only be withdrawn by a majority vote of the national board of appeals.
- E. Any member of the national board of appeals shall have the privilege to recuse themselves in order to ensure a fair and equitable outcome of the appeal.
- F. Any member of the national board of appeals who was on the investigation team, a member of the disciplining district board, or has a personal/family relationship with any party in the matter under consideration shall recuse themselves.
- G. The Chairperson of the board shall choose an alternate when necessary.
- H. Any person who has submitted an appeal shall relinquish all voting privileges until the final decision has been determined.

Notes