



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
OF TAMPA INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	3
CONSTITUTION.....	3
ARTICLE I: NAME.....	3
ARTICLE II: PREROGATIVES	3
ARTICLE III: AFFILIATION	3
ARTICLE IV: TENETS OF FAITH	3
1. <i>The Scriptures Inspired</i>	3
2. <i>The One True God</i>	3
3. <i>The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ</i>	4
4. <i>The Fall of Man</i>	4
5. <i>The Salvation of Man</i>	4
6. <i>The Ordinances of the Church</i>	4
7. <i>The Baptism in the Holy Ghost</i>	4
8. <i>The Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost</i>	5
9. <i>Sanctification</i>	5
10. <i>The Church and It's Mission</i>	5
11. <i>The Ministry</i>	5
12. <i>Divine Healing</i>	5
13. <i>The Blessed Hope</i>	6
14. <i>The Millennial Reign of Christ</i>	6
15. <i>The Final Judgment</i>	6
16. <i>The New Heaven and the New Earth</i>	6
ARTICLE V: ORDINANCES	6
ARTICLE VI: PRACTICES	6
ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP	6
ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS	7
ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS	8
ARTICLE X: DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES.....	8
ARTICLE XI: FINANCES	9
ARTICLE XII: PROPERTY	9
ARTICLE XIII: AMMENDMENTS	9
BY-LAWS	10
ARTICLE I: QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS	10
ARTICLE II: ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES	11
ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP	11
ARTICLE IV: DEPARTMENTS.....	13
ARTICLE VI: PROPERTY RIGHTS	14
ARTICLE VII: FINANCES.....	15
ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF BUSINESS	15
ARTICLE IX: DELEGATES TO COUNCIL	15
ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS.....	15

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place of worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian Fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be Honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our shares of responsibilities and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we whose names appear upon the Assembly roster, do hereby constitute ourselves a local Assembly in fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and adopt the following articles of the Church order submitting ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Assembly shall be First Assembly of God of the city of Tampa, and State of Florida.

ARTICLE II: PREROGATIVES

Section 1: This Assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, endeavoring to keep the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:3, 13)

Section 2: In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as a trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III: AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affair, this Assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with Assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Peninsular of Florida District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privilege and assume the responsibilities by that affiliation.

ARTICLE IV: TENETS OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. (II Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; II Peter 1:21)

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Deut. 4:4; Is. 43:10,11; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22) historically defined as the Trinity.

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6,1, Rom. 5:12-19)

5. The Salvation of Man

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

- a) Conditions to Salvation
Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life. (Luke 24:47, John 2:3, Rom. 10:13-15, Eph. 2:8, Titus 2:11; 3:5-7)
- b) The Evidence of Salvation
The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. (Rom. 8:16) The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:24, Titus 2:12)

6. The Ordinances of the Church

a) BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47-48, Rom. 6:4)

b) HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4), a memorial of his suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor. 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "Until He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4; 1:8, I Cor. 12:1-31) This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as: an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8) a deepened reverence for God, (Acts 2:43,

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

8. The Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

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

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. (Rom. 12:1-2, I Thess. 5:23, Heb. 13:12) The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14) By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (I Peter 1:15-16)

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 6:1-11; 13, 8:1-2; 13, Gal. 2:20, Phil. 2:12-13, I Peter 1:5)

10. The Church and It's Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven. (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:22, Heb. 12:23) Since God's purpose is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is...

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

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in...

- 1) Evangelization of the world. (Mark 16:15-20)
- 2) Worship of God. (John 4:23-24)
- 3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. (Eph. 4:11-16)
- 4) Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion. (Ps. 112:9, Gal. 2:10; 6:10)

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church. (I Thess. 4:16-17, Rom. 8:23, Titus 2:13, I Cor. 15:51-52)

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years. (Zech. 14:5, Matt. 24:27; 24:30, Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6) This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel, (Ez. 37:21,22, Zeph. 3:19,20, Rom. 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace. (Isa. 11:6-9, Ps. 72:3-8, Mich. 4:3-4)

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heaven and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE V: ORDINANCES

Section 1: The ordinances of Baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Rom. 6:3-5, Col. 2:12)

ARTICLE VI: PRACTICES

Section 1: Dedication of Children- Infants and small children may be dedicated to the Lord in the Assemble whenever requested. (Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-16)

Section 2: Ministering to the Sick- The sick shall be prayed for with the anointing of oil and laying on of hands, upon their request. (Mark 16:18, James 5:14)

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Assembly shall consist of those who have met the requirements for membership as stated in the by-laws, have duly been received into membership, and have not been removed from the membership roll. They shall be classified as active and in-active as further defined in the by-laws.

Section 1: General Standards

- a) Regarding Worldliness: The Bible says, "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world; if any man loves the world the love of the Father is not in him." Worldliness is a broad term to use to refer to anything which hinders a person from becoming more Christ like.

Therefore, this Assembly encourages all or each of its members to earnestly seek God concerning any activity in which He is involved, or about which he has questions. The Word of God, the Spirit of Truth, and council by the Pastor should be sufficient to direct you concerning questionable activities.

- b) Divorce. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matt. 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist, or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light of God's Word. (I Cor. 7:15)

Section 2: Doctrines and Practices Disapproved

We disapprove of all false teaching that stands in conflict with our tenets of faith such as...

- a) The unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to ever be lost (John 15:6, Rev. 22:16, Luke 8:13, II Peter 2:21)
- b) The "Jesus Only" teaching that would deny the Holy Trinity and true God Head of the Scripture.
- c) The legalism of those who press their personal opinions in matters of conscience on other such as eating or not eating meats, of those who hold issues which seem to add conditions to salvation such as keeping of the seventh day.
- d) Eschatological errors of amillennialism, post-tribulation rapture and restitution of all things. In fact, we are opposed to all forms of "Universalism" (Matt. 25:46, Rev. 20:10)

These things along with other heresies which cause confusion and division within the church shall be dealt with according to Titus 3:10-11.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS

Section 1: Officers

There shall be a Pastor elected by the Assembly, who under Jesus Christ, is recognized as the Head of the Church, and the Executive Director of the Corporation. He is responsible both to the District Fellowship and to the church which he serves, and as long as he conforms to Scriptural order and complies with the Constitution and By-laws of the local church, he shall be respected in his office.

Section 2: Ministerial Staff

There shall be a ministerial staff, elected by the Pastor. The staff shall assist the Pastor in the spiritual oversight of the congregation and shall work with the advancement of the Church. The staff shall serve the Assembly on an indefinite basis. However, as necessity demands the Pastor shall have the authority to terminate any and all staff members.

Section 3: Board of Deacons

There shall be a board of deacons consisting of not less than three members, who together with the Pastor and trustee shall make up the Board of Directors. They shall be elected by the church and from its membership.

Section 4: Board of Trustees

There shall be a board of trustees of three members who shall qualify according to the law of the state. They shall be elected by the church and from its membership.

Section 5: Board Additions

Additional members may be added to the Board of Directors as the church growth may dictate a need for more workers in these ministries. A vote by the church in its annual business meeting as to the number to be added will be required.

Section 6: Secretary

There shall be a Secretary chosen by the Board of Directors from its members.

Section 7: Treasurer

There shall be a Treasurer chosen by the Board of Directors from its members.

Section 8: Church Boards

No Board, committee, or group may take to themselves the right to supersede the authority vested in the Scriptural Office of the Pastor nor come between the Pastor and his relationship to the congregation itself. Boards or other church committees are chosen to serve the church in conformity to simple New Testament order and are directly responsible to both Pastor and church for their actions and conduct. No minister shall be eligible to serve on the official board of directors. No minutes shall be recorded, or action taken from any meeting until more than half the members are present, after all reasonable efforts to notify each board member has been taken.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS

Section 1: Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided under the direction of the Pastor and Official Board.

Section 2: There shall be an annual business meeting of the Assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place, and the report of all officers shall be read. This meeting shall be held not later than the first part of February. Due notice is to be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3: Special Business meetings of the Assembly may be called, when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the Assembly, providing the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Directors. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-fourth of the Assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary. The announcement must be made on two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 4: Quorum

No record of any specific or regular business meeting of the Assembly shall be made unless one-fourth or more active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 5: The Official Board of Directors with the Pastor shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business for the Assembly; time and place to be announced by the Pastor.

ARTICLE X: DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

This Assembly hereby provides for the establishment of any department or the appointment of any committee that may be needed. All such departments or committees shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Board of Directors and the Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

ARTICLE XI: FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contribution of the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the Assembly as such times and in such ways agreed upon by the Pastor and Official Board and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction. (Matt. 3:10, Luke 6:38, I Cor. 6:1, II Cor. 9:6-8)

ARTICLE XII: PROPERTY

Section 1: All property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the same having first been recommended by a vote by vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for a consideration of the proposal. The Pastor or Secretary of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the Assembly. Such certifications shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 2: In the event this Assemble shall cease to function for the purpose herein set forth, then all property real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations; shall revert to the Assemblies of God Inc., a nonprofit corporation with Headquarters in Lakeland, Florida. The Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of this Assembly, its Board of Trustee shall transfer all properties and remaining assets in accordance with the foregoing provisions within one year after the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above of if the aforesaid District Council shall be unable to unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the Assembly is located, provided that in such proceeds of dissolution they shall be distributed to the organization having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XIII: AMMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active membership of the Assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special called meeting, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all services on at least two Sundays proceeding the time of such meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Article of Faith, which stands regardless of majority.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Pastor

- a) **Qualifications:** The pastor of the Assembly shall be a recognized minister of the Assemblies of God with an up-to-date fellowship certificate. Any exceptions of this qualification must have written approval of the Executive Committee of the Peninsular of Florida Council.
- b) **Duties:** The pastor shall be considered the Spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the President of the corporation and shall act as chairman of the Assembly and of the Board of Directors. He shall be ex-officio member of all committee of departments. He shall provide for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.

Section 2: Ministerial Staff

- a) **Qualifications:** The ministerial staff shall be recognized ministers of the Assembly with up-to-date fellowship certificates.
- b) **Duties:** All ministerial staff members will assist the Pastor in overseeing the church and perform duties only as the Pastor prescribes and approves.

Section 3: Board of Directors

- a) **Qualifications:** The Board of Deacons shall be chosen from the active membership of the Assembly. They shall be mature men and women of good report and proven spiritual leadership. No man or woman shall be elected to the Board of Deacons who has not been a member of the Assembly for one year.
- b) **Duties:** The Board of Deacons shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly and its spiritual life and in the ministry of the ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and in the administration of the discipline of the Assembly.

In the event the Assembly is temporarily without a Pastor, or the Pastor is unable to be present, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to provide its own chairman in order to transact business of the Assembly.

Section 4: Board of Trustees

- a) **Qualifications:** The members of the Board of Trustees shall qualify for the office according to the law of state, (Acts 6:3) and each shall be a member in good standing for one year prior to election.
- b) **Duties:** They shall be the custodians of all property of the Assembly and shall be responsible for the maintenance of the same. They shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand or upon the request of the Pastor.

Section 5: Secretary

- a) **Qualifications:** Since the secretary shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among its members, he/she shall qualify according to the standards of I Tim. 3:8-13, Acts 6:3.
- b) **Duties:** The secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Directors and of the annual and special business meetings of other clerical work necessary to the documents and be in possession of the corporate seal.

Section 6: Treasurer

- a) Qualifications: Since the secretary shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among its members, he/she shall qualify according to the standards of I Tim. 3:8-13, Acts 6:3.
- b) Duties: The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly which may be committed to them. He/she shall see that all funds are deposited in a responsible bank in the name of the Assembly and shall see the disbursements are by check as authorized by the Pastor and Board of Directors. The treasurer shall keep itemized accounts of the receipts and disbursements. He shall make an itemized report to the Assembly annually at its regular business meetings. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the pastor and Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II: ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1: The Pastor shall be nominated by the Board of Directors, who shall act as a screening committee. Recommendations may be made to the board by any member of the Assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the Assembly or at a special meeting called for the purpose. The pastor shall be elected by a two thirds majority vote and shall be called on an indefinite basis unless otherwise specified. Such nominee must be an Assemblies of God minister and in good standings with the General and District Council and/or have written approval of the District Executive Presbyter.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall be chosen from the membership of the Assembly. They shall be nominated by the screening committee, selected, and chaired by the pastor. The committee shall consider all names submitted by the congregation and present the nominees at the annual business meeting for approval. The Board of Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote at the annual business meeting. The board will be made up of three members with others added at the discretion of the board and Pastor. One shall be elected to serve one year; one shall be elected to serve two years; and one shall be selected to serve three years. After serving two terms or a maximum of six years, that board member shall be required to come of the board for a period of one year before re-election.

Section 3: The tenure of office in the Pastorate shall be terminated by resignation, removal, death, or disqualification. Power is vested in the Board of Directors to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the Pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board of Directors has been confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose. When a vacancy in the Pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for the Board of Directors until a Pastor shall be chosen. In case of a Pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the District Officiary. Such action is not to be considered as otherwise affecting the standing of the Pastor with the General Council Fellowship.

Section 4: Other Officers- Any office may be declared vacant by an act of majority membership at any regular or special business meeting. Ground for such action shall be unscriptural conduct, for any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for fair and impartial hearing of his case before the Assembly if he so desires. If a Board of Directors vacancy occurs that board shall appoint a qualified church member to fill the remaining time of the Office vacated.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Qualifications

The Standard of membership of this Assembly shall be:

- a) Evidence of genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth). (John 1:1-13; 3:3-8, I Peter 1:18-25)

- b) To fully subscribe to the tenants of faith as set forth in the constitutional rules of order as adopted by the Assembly.
- c) Indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of the Assembly, to be governed by its constitution and by-laws, and to contribute regularly to the support with tithes and offerings as the Lord may prosper them. (I Cor. 16:2, Mal. 3:8-10)
- d) Evidence of a consistent Christian Life (Rom. 6:4; 13:13-14, Eph. 4:17-32, Eph. 5:1-2, 15, I John 1:6-7)

Section 2: Reception on Members

- a) Persons desiring to become active members of the Assembly shall make the fact known to the Pastor, who shall examine the application according to the standard of membership.
- b) The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with this recommendation to the Board of Directors, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the requirements of membership and have been passed upon favorably shall be received into the Assembly publicly at any of the regular services and their names inscribed on the roster.
- c) Membership shall be extended to youth between ages 12-16 who meet the above-mentioned spiritual qualifications. These shall not have legal voting rights until reaching 16, when each one will be examined by the Pastor and Board for transfer to the status of regular active membership.

Section 3: Active Members

- a) Those whose names appeared on the original membership rolls of this Assembly at the time this Assembly was first organized.
- b) Those whose names shall be added from time to time.
- c) Those who regularly attend and take part in the services.
- d) Those who regularly contribute to the financial support of the Assembly with either tithed and offerings according to his/her ability.
- e) Those who are sixteen years of age and older.

Section 4: Inactive Members

- a) Those who fail to meet any of the aforementioned qualification for active membership or are Junior members under the age of sixteen.
- b) Those who shall have moved from the community, but have not yet transferred their membership to another church, together with those for any other cause (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have absented themselves from the regular services of the Assembly for a period of 30 days or more, shall have become active members again by resuming financial support and attendance at church services, and if he has not departed from the standard of membership of the Assembly the Board may return his name to the active list without formal reception into membership again.

Section 5: Discipline

- a) Any member of the Assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of 90 days, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in their case.
- b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this Assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. (Matt. 18:15-18, I Cor. 5:11, Gal. 1:8-9, Titus 3:1-5, Rom. 16:17-18, I Tim. 5:20, II Thess. 3:6-15)

Section 6: Revision of Membership Roll

The Pastor and the Board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the Assembly annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who have become deceased during the year,

together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with standards and teachings of the Assembly. It is understood that no such action shall be taken unless and until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of this Assembly.

If a name is removed for a cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Official Board through the Secretary (Matt. 18:15-17, Rom. 16:17-18, I Cor. 5:1-5, II Thess. 3:6-15)

Section 7: Transferal of Membership

A letter of transfer signed by the Pastor and Secretary shall be granted upon request. Such letters shall be addressed to the Pastor or Secretary of the receiving church shall state whether the member is classified as an active or inactive member.

Section 8: Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all active members, 16 years of age and over, who are in good standing with the Assembly.

ARTICLE IV: DEPARTMENTS

Section 1: Sunday School

The Pastor and Board of Directors shall appoint the Sunday School Superintendent. The Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent together shall have the right to appoint all other officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School. In consultation with the workers of the school, they determine all policies and programs if the school.

Section 2: Christ's Ambassadors

The young people of the Assembly shall be organized as Christ's Ambassadors under the general supervision of the Pastor and Youth Pastor. Their constitution and by-laws together with all amendments thereto, shall be approved by the Board of Directors, before becoming effective. They shall be entitled to elect their own officers and conduct their own meetings under their constitution and by-laws. All officers shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 3: Men's Ministry

There shall be a Men's Ministry and it shall be under the general direction of the Pastor. IT shall be conducted as a branch of the activities of the Assembly and shall have the right to elect its own officers. All officers shall meet the qualifications and standards of the assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 4: Royal Rangers

There shall be a Royal Ranger program. It shall be under the general direction of the Pastor and our Post Council. It shall be supported in part by the Men's Ministry. The Pastor shall appoint the Senior Commander who shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 5: Women's Ministry

There shall be a Women's Ministry and it shall be under the general direction of the Pastor. IT shall be conducted as a branch of the activities of the Assembly and shall have the right to elect its own officers to its constitution and by-laws. All officers shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 6: Missionettes

There shall be a Missionettes program, and it shall be under the general direction of the Pastor and be considered an integral part of the Women's Ministry. The pastor shall appoint the coordinator, who shall select and recommend all other Sponsors. All Sponsors and Coordinator shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 7: Y's

There shall be a Y's program and it shall be under the general direction of the Pastor and be considered an integral part of the Women's Ministry. It shall be referred to as an Auxiliary of the Women's Ministry. The Pastor shall appoint the coordinator who shall select and recommend all other Sponsors. The coordinator and all other Sponsors shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 8: Children's Church

There shall be a Children's Church program, and it shall be under the general direction of the Pastor. It shall be an integral part of the Assembly. The Pastor and Children's Church Leader together shall have the right to appoint all other workers, and teachers. The leader shall in consultation with the worker of the Children's Church determine all policies and programs of the Children's Church. All leaders shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the Assembly.

Section 9: Spanish Ministry

If a Spanish Ministry is formed, it shall be under the general supervision of the Senior Pastor of First Assembly of God Tampa. Their pastor shall be appointed only with the approval of the Senior Pastor. They shall operate under the constitution and by-laws of First Assembly of God of Tampa. They shall be entitled to appoint their own officers and conduct their own business meetings, so long as they conform to the Constitution and By-laws of this Assembly. All officers shall meet the qualifications and standards of the Assembly and be members of the local Assembly. The Spanish Mission shall be an integral part of this Assembly and assist in the financing of this Assembly.

ARTICLE VI: PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

Section 2: No real or chattel property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the majority vote membership.

Section 3: The Pastor and Secretary-Treasurer of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgaged, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held as conclusive proof thereof.

Section 4: In the event that this Assembly ceases to function as a church Body, then said property, real or chattel shall revert to the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God Inc., located in Lakeland, Florida. Said District Council shall forthwith have full authority the use of or dispose of the property of their discretion.

In the event of the sale of the property by said District Council, the proceeds derived there from shall be used in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCES

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall determine salaries and allowance and shall have general oversight in all financial matters of the Assembly. All records of each department shall be subject to audit.

Section 2: The Pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3: This Assembly shall voluntarily send offerings for the support of the headquarters office in Springfield, Missouri, and for the other ministries under its supervision.

Section 4: This Assembly shall provide monthly mission offerings to be sent through the Finance department of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri.

Section 5: This Assembly shall voluntarily contribute regularly to the support of the Peninsular Florida District Council Office.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF BUSINESS

All businesses of the Assembly shall be conducted according to accept Parliamentary Procedure, in keeping with the Spirit of Christian love and fellowship. The order of business in the annual business meeting shall be:

- 1) Devotional
- 2) Reading of previous minutes by the Secretary
- 3) Report of the Treasurer
- 4) Report of Committees
- 5) Unfinished business
- 6) Election of Officers
- 7) New Business
- 8) Adjournment

ARTICLE IX: DELEGATES TO COUNCIL

This Assembly shall send to the Peninsular Florida District Council Annually all Pastors and their wives, and one delegate, and to the General Council biannually the Pastor, his wife and one delegate as finances permit.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meetings of the Assembly by a simple majority vote of the membership present.