

BYLAWS for Rock of Grace Family Ministries of the Assemblies of God

Updated March 13, 2022

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Bylaws for Rock of Grace Family Ministries of the Assemblies of God

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BYLAWS OF
Rock of Grace of the Assemblies of God
Adopted this 17th day of January 2023

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose names appear upon the assembly roster under above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and of the Ohio Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God; and declare that we hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The official name of this church is Rock of Grace Family Ministries of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES & PURPOSES

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

1. To Govern

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

2. To Acquire and Dispose

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

3. To Worship, Fellowship, and Propagate

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive

testimony, and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

4. To Cooperate

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

5. To Recognize

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

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

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

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

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

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

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

The Adorable Godhead

(a) Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

Accordingly, therefore, there is **that** in the Father which constitutes Him **the Father** and not the Son; there is **that** in the Son which constitutes Him **the Son** and not the Father; and there is **that** in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him **the Holy Spirit** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because

these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zechariah 14:9).

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the Godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not **from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 8:17,18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation **Lord Jesus Christ** is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name *Immanuel* embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title *Son of God* describes His proper deity, and the title *Son of Man*, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title *Son of God* belongs to the **order of eternity**, and the title *Son of Man* to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to

the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an **unspeakable** joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) Conditions to Salvation

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

(b) The Evidences of Salvation

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

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

(b) Holy Communion

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the 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 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

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

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of

the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15,16).

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the 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 (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism in Water

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

Section 2. Holy Communion

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

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Active voting membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- b. Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14, Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6,7).
- d. An indication of a willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which he or she is to become a member.
- e. Regularly attends weekly worship services.
- f. Participation in volunteer service.
- g. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- h. Having reached at least 16 years of age.
- i. Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Ohio District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall submit an application to the pastor or church board. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote.

Section 3. Pastors and Spouse

By virtue of office, any pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during their tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to section 9 of this Article VI.

Section 4. Transfer Members

This assembly does not accept transfer memberships from other assemblies or churches.

Section 5. Inactive Membership

Active voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of 6 consecutive months or more, or who cease to

contribute of their means to its support for a period of 6 consecutive months, or ceases to participate in voluntary service for a period of 6 consecutive months may be declared inactive members by a majority vote of the church board, and thereupon shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by action of the assembly through its church board.

Section 6. Discipline

A. Grounds

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly, as determined in the sole discretion of the church board. The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God.

B. Procedure

The assembly will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) A staff pastor or a designated member of the church board discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the pastor and church board or with a designated committee of the church board in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the member or the church board may submit the matter to the membership of the assembly in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only active voting members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a special business meeting. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the church (Matthew 18:17). However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

C. Resignations

Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Elder Board

A. In General

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board which shall consist of the pastor and at least three deacons, to the extent that such authority is not limited by district supervision as provided for under the bylaws of the District Council.

B. Qualifications of Elder Board Members

See qualifications for pastors and deacons below.

C. Duties of Elder Board

- 1) The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.
- 2) The church board shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.
- 3) For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of the church board shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the church board.
- 4) The church board shall elect a secretary from among its members.
- 5) The church board shall elect a treasurer from among the active voting members who meet the qualifications for such office.

D. Elder Board Member Requirements

- 1) The members of the Elder Board shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6.
- 2) Elder board members shall be at least 30 years old.
- 3) A minimum of two of the elders are to be members of a campus of Rock of Grace for at least one year.
- 4) Must conform to the Tenets of the Faith as defined in the network, (Article VI. Tenets of the Faith).

Section 2. Officers

A. In General

There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairman of the church board. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual.

B. Qualifications

(1) Pastor

The pastor shall be in good standing with both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the District Council, holding a current fellowship card.

(2) Secretary

The secretary shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall be a member of the church board.

(3) Treasurer

The treasurer shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

C. Duties of Officers

1) Pastor

- a)* Shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities.
- b)* Shall be recognized as a member of the church board, president of the assembly, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the church board.
- c)* Shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings, conventions, and revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.
- d)* Shall, as chairman of the church board, be chairman of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees. The pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as deacons.
- e)* Should conduct a training class at least once a year on the responsibilities of the church board, deacons, trustees, secretary, treasurer, and other church leaders. Such a training course shall be based upon the scriptural directives for church leadership and the church bylaws.
- f)* Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

2) Secretary

- a)* Shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the church board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly.
- b)* Shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties.
- c)* Shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

- d) Shall file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.
- 3) *Treasurer*
- a) Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the church board, and shall deposit all funds as a prudent investor would under the circumstances. All checks issued on behalf of the church must be signed by the treasurer and one additional officer authorized by the church board.
 - b) Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.
 - c) Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
 - d) Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.
 - e) Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.

Section 3. Temporary Church Board

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and other members of the church board, destroying the unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery along with the sectional presbyter (the investigating committee), upon request from the pastor or a majority of the church board members, shall investigate such differences. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of the investigating committee they may declare the church under District supervision. The term "District supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to (1) suspend the constitution and bylaws of the church, (2) suspend the church board, (3) reclassify the church as a District Council affiliated church, and (4) appoint and establish a temporary church board invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife shall cease. If the pastor is also the sectional presbyter, the assistant sectional presbyter shall be a member of the investigating committee in his place.

Section 4. Campus Church Leadership

- 1) General Purpose and Function
 - a) Each campus shall have a campus deacon board. The campus deacon board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the campus pastor and the Rock of Grace elder board. Additionally, they will oversee the administration of the campus finances and property maintenance and care.
 - b) There shall be a campus deacon board chairman, secretary, and treasurer. The campus pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the chairman of the Deacon Board. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held

simultaneously by the same individual.

2) Qualifications of Campus Church Leadership

a) Campus Pastor

- i) The Campus Pastor shall be a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. A campus pastor is permitted to hold a local church credential from Rock of Grace provided that he or she is actively pursuing ministerial credentials with the General Council.
- ii) Shall be the spiritual overseer of the campus church and shall oversee its activities.
- iii) Shall be recognized as a member of the campus deacon board and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the campus deacon board.
- iv) Shall oversee all services of the campus church and shall specifically arrange for all special worship services of the campus church in cooperation with the lead pastor.
- v) Shall, as chairman of the deacon board, be chairman of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon board nominees. The campus pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as a member of the deacon board.
- vi) Shall be an ex-officio member of all campus church committees.

b) Campus Deacon Board

- i) Campus deacon board members shall be a member of Rock of Grace.
- ii) Must conform to the Tenets of the Faith as defined in Article IV.
- iii) A campus deacon board member is not permitted to hold ministerial credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God nor serve as a staff member of Rock of Grace.

3) Duties of Campus Church Leadership

a) Campus Pastor

- i) The campus pastor will serve as the onsite senior leader within the campus church. They shall have direct oversight of the local campus church staff and campus deacon board.
- ii) The campus pastor will work in cooperation with the Lead Pastor to provide vision and oversight for the campus to which they are appointed.

b) Campus Deacon Board

- i) The campus deacon board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the lead pastor, campus pastor, and elder board.
- ii) The campus deacon board shall provide preliminary approval of applications for membership.

- iii) The campus deacon board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the local campus.
- iv) The campus deacon board shall elect a secretary from among its members. This action shall be ratified by the elder board.
- v) The elder board shall elect a treasurer from among its members. This action shall be ratified by the elder board.

Section 5. Fiduciary Duties

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

Section 6. Local Church Credential

This assembly may grant a local church credential to persons wishing to pursue ministerial recognition pursuant to guidelines established by the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the district council with which this assembly is affiliated. It is understood that this credential is to endorse ministry which is undertaken under the auspices of this church and implies no certification by the district council or the General Council, and is not transferable to other churches or ministries.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Elections

A. Pastor

- 1) The pastor shall be nominated by the church board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.
- 2) The pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time.
- 3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.
- 4) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.
- 5) In the event either the pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the District Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

B. Secretary of the Elder Board

The secretary shall be elected by the church board from among its members. The term of office shall be one year, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

C. Treasurer of the Elder Board

The treasurer shall be elected by the church board from among the active voting members of the assembly. The term of office shall be 1 year, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

D. Elder Board Members

Elder Board Members shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board (see Article VII, section 2C, paragraph [1][d]), and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations for elders shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting without prior proof that the nominee meets the qualifications for a deacon. Elders shall be elected for a 3-year term, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Elders may not serve more than two consecutive 3-year terms. The terms of elders shall be staggered appropriately. The minimum period between non-consecutive terms shall be 1 year.

E. Campus Deacons

Campus Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the elder board, and they shall be appointed by a majority vote of the elder board. Campus Deacons shall be appointed for a 3-year term to begin from the date of appointment. Campus Deacons may not serve more than two consecutive 3-year terms. The terms of Campus Deacons shall be staggered appropriately. The minimum period between non-consecutive terms shall be 1 year.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

A. Pastor

When a vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, section 1A. The counsel of the district superintendent will be sought. When a pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the District or General Council, the pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated. In the event a special business meeting is called by petition as provided in Article IX, Section 3, for the purpose of considering the status of the pastor, a majority vote of all voting members present and voting shall be required to remove a pastor from office before his term expires. Severance pay shall be governed

by Article XI, section 3C. A campus of the church may request separation from the assembly during this time period.

B. Secretary and Treasurer

The offices of secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

C. Elder and Deacon

The offices of elder and deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

D. In General

Any office or position of leadership in the church including but not limited to pastoral staff, lay leaders, and support staff (other than that of the pastor or elder board member) may be declared vacant by action of the elder board by majority vote with a termination date to not be less than two weeks from the time of notice. The individual in question shall have the right to appeal the termination at a special elder board meeting to be held no more than two weeks from the deciding date of initial termination. Upon the appeal, the elder board will determine by majority vote to uphold or reverse the termination decision. If the termination is upheld, the individual will be given a final termination date.

The right to appeal with a minimum time notice for vacancy is nullified if the individual meets any of the following:

- A) ministerial credentials are withdrawn by the District or General Council
- B) moral turpitude equivalent to ministerial standards of the Assemblies of God

E. Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of pastor) may be filled by appointment of the church board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held each week as may be provided for under direction of the pastor or the church board if there is no pastor. These meetings may be held in but not limited to physical, digital, or other means of worship.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election and ratification of elders shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held in the first quarter of each calendar year. The time and place shall be announced by the pastor. Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced during the meetings for worship of each campus on each of the two Meetings for Worship immediately preceding the date of the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those active voting members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least 3 consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board.

A petition pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the district superintendent, who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly. No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any 12-month period. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

These meetings may be held in but not limited to physical, digital, or other means agreed upon by the elder board.

Section 4. Parliamentary Order

All business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 5. Voting Constituency

A. Qualifying of Voters

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present either physically, digitally, or other approved means by the elder board, and who are 16 years of age or older (Article VI, Section 1).

B. Members Under Process of Discipline

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article VI, Section 9).

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of all members present at any duly called business meeting.

Section 7. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of this assembly shall be as follows:

- a. Devotional
- b. Reading of previous minutes
- c. Report of treasurer
- e. Unfinished business
- f. Election of officers
- g. New business
- h. Adjournment

Section 8. The Elder Board

The elder board shall meet monthly or at the call of the lead pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the lead pastor. A majority of the board members present shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been notified of the meeting.

Section 9. The Campus Deacon Board

The campus deacon board shall meet at least bi-monthly or at the call of the campus pastor for the transaction of business for the local campus, time and place to be announced by the campus pastor. A majority of the deacon board members present shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been notified of the meeting.

Section 10. The Elder Board & Campus Deacon Board Meeting

The elder board and deacon boards from all campuses shall meet no less than three times per year at a time and place to be announced by the lead pastor. A majority of members

present shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been notified of the meeting.

Section 11. Membership Roll

The elder board shall review the list of active voting members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the elder board immediately preceding the annual business meeting, and compile a current list of active voting members.

Section 12. Meeting and Ballot Qualifications

All meetings within Article IX may be held in any combination of but not limited to physical, digital, or other means agreed upon by the elder board. Any persons who participate in the meetings through these means will be considered present. Ballots may be cast in physical, electronic, or other methods as deemed appropriate by the elder board prior to and during the meeting.

ARTICLE X. MINISTRIES

This church shall create and maintain such departments and sub organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work including those mentioned in this Article. All such departments and organizations 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 leader pastor and elder board, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES

Section 1. In General

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

Section 2. Handling of Offerings

All offerings shall be collected by a minimum of two individuals and placed in a tamper evident envelope with signatures. The monies shall be placed in a safe at the campus or location until transportation by a staff approved individual allows for direct transfer of the offering to be counted at the Finance Office of Rock of Grace and placed in the finance office safe. Offering money shall be counted when a minimum of two unrelated individuals are present in the building and done so in a room with a security camera.

Section 3. Borrowing

The Lead Pastor shall have the authority to borrow such sums as may be needed from time to time to advance the mission of the Church provided the transaction does not involve the purchase or lease of real property and is not in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the previous year's total revenue. Such transactions must have two signatures, the Lead Pastor and a Member of the Elder Board. Any transaction which involves the borrowing of monies in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the previous year's total revenue, whichever is lesser, shall be approved by a majority vote during any meeting of the combined elder and campus deacon board(s). Any transaction which involves the borrowing of monies in excess of twenty-five (25%) of the previous year's total revenue shall also be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Membership of the Church during any official Membership Meeting. Any transaction involving the purchase or lease of real property shall be approved by a majority vote during any official meeting of the Elder Board, Deacon Boards, and affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Membership of the Church present at any meeting specified for this action.

Section 4. Audit

On a quinquennial basis, the Elder Board shall be responsible for obtaining an audit of the finances of the Church from an authorized independent source, the results of which shall be presented at the annual Vision Meeting. Financial reviews must be completed by the treasurer at the conclusion of each fiscal year.

Section 5. Conflicts of Interest

(a) In the event that any Elder Board Member or Campus Deacon Board Member has a conflict of interest that might properly limit such Member's fair and impartial participation in deliberations or decisions, such Member shall inform the Elder Board as to the circumstances of such conflict. If those circumstances require the nonparticipation of the affected Member, the Elder Board may nonetheless request from the Member any appropriate non-confidential information which might inform its decisions.

"Conflict of interest," as referred to herein, shall include but shall not be limited to, any transaction by or with the Church in which an Elder Board Member or Campus Deacon Board Member has a direct or indirect personal interest, or any transaction in which such Member is unable to exercise impartial judgment or otherwise act in the best interests of the Church.

(b) No Elder Board Member or Campus Deacon Board Member shall take part in the final deliberation in any matter in which he or she, members of his or her immediate family, or any organization to which such director has allegiance, has a personal interest that may be seen as competing with the interest of the Church. Any Elder Board Member or Campus Deacon Board Member who believes he or she may have such a conflict of interest shall so notify his or her respective Board prior to deliberation on the matter in question, and the respective Board shall make the final determination as to whether any Board Member has a conflict of interest in any matter. The minutes of the respective

Board Meeting shall reflect disclosure of any conflict of interest and the recusal of the interested Board Member.

Section 6. Pastoral Remuneration

A. Regular Remuneration

The lead pastor shall be remunerated for his or her services by a salary or by other means agreed upon by the elder board and himself. The elder board shall review the lead pastor's remuneration at least annually.

B. Reimbursement for Expenses

The lead pastor shall be given consideration by the elder board for expenses incurred by their attendance at Network Conferences, General Councils, and other Network functions by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church as determined by the church board.

C. Severance Pay

In the event a lead pastor is removed from office by a vote of the active voting membership of the church, he or she shall be given a minimum of 2 months regular or average remuneration as severance pay, except in the case of moral turpitude.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

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

Section 2. Purchases and Sales of Property

All purchases and sales of real property shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Elder Board who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Section 3. Discontinuation of Church Services

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of 3 months under the direction of a leader duly authorized by and in good standing with the Ohio Ministry Network, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article XII, section 4, of these bylaws.

Section 4. Disaffiliation

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship in full cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, and the Ohio Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. In the event that the church shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the Network Presbytery of the Ohio Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to the Ohio Ministry Network and shall be used by the Network as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the Network may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

Section 5. Dissolution

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

ARTICLE XIII. INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. Actions Other Than on Behalf of the Corporation

Any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed cause of action, suit or proceedings, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (other than suit by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, shall be indemnified by the corporation for expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such cause of action, suit or proceeding if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and with respect to any criminal action or

proceedings, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2. Actions on Behalf of the Corporation

Any person who was or is party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed cause of action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise shall be indemnified by the corporation against expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. However, no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his or her duty to the corporation, unless, and only to the extent that, the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine, upon application, that despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as such court shall deem proper.

Section 3. Successful Defense

Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, to the extent that a director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, he or she shall in any event be indemnified against expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

Section 4. Determination of Indemnification

Any indemnification under Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, unless ordered by a court, shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article. Such determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the Executive Presbytery of the Ohio District Council acting as the trustees of this corporation who were not and are not parties to a threatened action, suit or proceeding, or (b) if such a quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, in a written opinion by

independent legal counsel other than an attorney, or a firm having associated with it an attorney who has been retained by or who has performed services for the corporation, or any person to be indemnified with the past five years, or (c) by the membership, or (d) by the court of common pleas or the court in which action, suit, or proceeding was brought. Any determination made by the disinterested directors under Section (4) (a) of this Article or by independent legal counsel under paragraph (4) (b) of this article shall be promptly communicated to the person who threatened or brought the action or suit, by or in the right of the corporation under Section 2 of this Article. Such person shall, within ten days after receipt of such notification, have the right to petition the court of common pleas or the court in which such action or suit was brought to review the reasonableness of such determination.

Section 5. Expenses Advanced

Expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred in defending any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding as authorized by the directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent to repay such amount, unless it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as authorized in this Article.

Section 6. Indemnification not Exclusive Remedy

The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled by a law of the State of Ohio, bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise, both as to action taken in his or her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a trustee, officer, employee, or agent, and such rights shall inure to the benefit of such person's heirs, executors, and administrators.

Section 7. Insurance

The corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, domestic or foreign, nonprofit or for profit, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against any liability venture, trust, or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under this Article.

Section 8. Merger of Corporation

If this corporation is the surviving corporation in a merger, the indemnification rights given by this Article shall not inure to the benefit of directors, officers, or employees or

agents, or other persons acting for or associated with any constituent corporation in the capacities described in Sections 1 and 2 insofar as any such persons acting in such capacities for such constituent corporation and not for this corporation.

Section 9. Statutory Rights not Limited

Except as to matters referred to in Section 8 of this Article, nothing in this Article or in these bylaws shall be construed to limit or deny any rights of indemnification existing under the Ohio Revised Code, as it now exists or may subsequently be amended.

ARTICLE XIV. DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY

Section 1. Emergency Bylaw Provisions

- A. Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, Rock of Grace may adopt bylaws to be effective only in an emergency defined in paragraph E of this section.
- B. The emergency bylaws may make all provisions necessary for managing Rock of Grace during the emergency, including but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Procedures for calling a meeting of the membership or the board of directors
 - 2. Quorum requirements for any meeting
 - 3. Designation of additional or substitute directors
 - 4. Modification of lines of succession to accommodate the incapacity of any director, officer, employee, or agent resulting from the emergency
 - 5. Relocation of the principal office

During an emergency, Rock of Grace shall have the maximum authority possible to run the Rock of Grace's interim affairs in the manner they deem best.

- C. All provisions of the regular bylaws consistent with the emergency bylaws remain effective during the emergency. The emergency bylaws are not effective after the emergency ends.
- D. Corporate action taken in good faith in accordance with the emergency bylaws both binds Rock of Grace and may not be used to impose liability on a corporate director, officer, employee, or agent.
- E. An emergency exists for purposes of this section if a quorum of the members or directors cannot readily be assembled because of any of the following events:
 - 1. A natural catastrophe, including, but not limited to, a hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion

2. An attack on this state or nation by an enemy of the United States of America, or upon receipt by this state of a warning from the federal government indicating that an enemy attack is probable or imminent
3. An act of terrorism or other manmade disaster that results in extraordinary levels of casualties or damage or disruption severely affecting the infrastructure, environment, economy, government functions, or population, including, but not limited to, mass evacuations
4. A pandemic
5. A state of emergency proclaimed by a governor or by the president
6. Any other condition as a result of which a quorum cannot readily be assembled

Section 2. Electronic Meetings and Action by Unanimous Consent

In the event of an emergency or other sufficient cause as determined by the board of elders or the membership at either a regular or special meeting may participate and act at any meeting through the use of any technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other, upon such terms and in such manner as the board of directors shall determine. Participation in such meetings shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present, except as otherwise indicated herewith. Articles III, XII, and XIII, of these bylaws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of 100 percent (100%) of the active voting members present at any annual or special business meeting called for the exclusive purpose of amending these bylaws. Article IV of these bylaws is not subject to amendment. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XVI: CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE, SEXUALITY, AND GENDER

At Rock of Grace Family Ministries, we affirm human sexuality as a gift from God, designed to serve as a mirror of one's relationship with God. We believe that God's intention for human sexuality is between one genetic male and one genetic female within the covenant of marriage (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4). In addition, Rock of Grace Family Ministries supports the understanding that any attempts to change one's God-given sexuality through elective sex-reassignment, transgender, or nonbinary acts or conduct is at odds with biblical standards. Any deviation from a biblical standard of sexual behavior is a result of separation from God, and therefore is an opportunity for repentance, grace, and redemption so that as a community, we might honor one another and glorify God.

