

PREAMBLE

The purpose of the institution of the Christian church being the extension of the kingdom of Jesus Christ over the world, this Church is declared to be, in its entirety, a missionary organization, and all its members are expected, as God gives ability, to labor, pray and contribute for the spread of the gospel at home and throughout the world.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:19,20

MANUAL

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be known as the Highway Mission Tabernacle.

Affiliation

The Highway Mission Tabernacle is affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of this organization is:

First: To carry on Gospel Work by practical means among all classes of people, both at home and abroad (Luke 14:21-23; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15).

Second: To promote a belief in the entire Word of God (II Tim. 3:16; Luke 24:27,44) and by preaching (Tit. 1:3) and witnessing (Acts 1:8, 26:16-22) to the Full Gospel of Christ (I Thess. 5:23, Eph. 3:14-19) to secure the salvation of sinners (Matt 1:21) and the edification of believers (Eph. 4:12).

Third: To provide a place of Christian worship (John 4:23), work (Mark 13:34), and fellowship (I John 1:3), for all classes of people irrespective of social position or worldly possessions (Jas. 2:1-9; Acts 10:34; Heb. 10:25).

ARTICLE III

Outlines of Belief

The Trinity: We believe in God the Father and in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour, "Who is over all, God blessed forever." (Rom. 9:5), and in God the Holy Spirit, three Divine Persons in the Unity of the Godhead (Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 13:14, Gen. 1:26, Matt. 3:16,17; Eph. 2:18, I Pet. 1:2, John 14:16,26; 15:26).

Inspiration of the Word: We believe the Holy Scriptures are the divinely inspired Word of God (Heb. 1:1, II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:21) and our infallible rule of belief, doctrine, discipline and life (Psalm 138:2; 119:89; Matt. 5:17,18; Psalm 19:7,8; 119:105, 133; II Pet. 1:19, II Tim. 4:2, Acts 17:11,12; Prov. 30:5,6; Rev. 22:18,19).

The Atonement of Jesus Christ: We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God, who became the Son of man, has made a full atonement for the sins of all mankind, and that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him will be saved and "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (I Pet.1:5; Isa. 53:4-6; Matt. 8:17, John 3:16, I Tim. 2:5,6; Matt. 20:28; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 4:25; 5:10,11,18,19; Col. 1:20; II Cor. 5:18,19; I Pet. 1:18,19), and that those who die impenitent will be forever lost (Mark 9:43,44; Matt. 25:41; Luke 12:5; Luke 16:19-31).

Man, His Fall and Redemption: We believe man was created good and upright for God said, "Let us make man in Our Image, after Our likeness." But man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God (Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21).

The Salvation of Man; We believe

(a) Conditions to Salvation: The grace of God, which bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, thru the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, and being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 2:11; Rom. 10:13-15; Luke 24:27; Titus 3:5-7).

(b) The evidence of Salvation: The inward evidence, to the believer of his 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.

The Holy Spirit: We believe all Christians are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life

and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49); Acts 1:4-8; I Cor. 12:1-31). This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

We accept and believe the full consummation of the Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost, as received by the early Christian Church on the Day of Pentecost, is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service. (Acts 2:4; 8:17; 11:14-16; 19:2,6; Acts 1:8; 2:42,43).

Entire Sanctification: We believe the Scriptures teach a life of holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Ghost, we are to obey the command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word. (Heb. 12:14; I Peter 1:15,16; I Thess. 5:23,24; I John 2:6; Rom. 8:3,4).

The Church: We believe that the Church is the body of Christ of which He is the Head (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23-32), and that the Church comprises all true believers whose duty is to associate themselves together for the maintenance of public worship and the observance of the ordinances of Christ (Acts 11:26; Heb. 10:25).

The Ministry of Evangelism: A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose:

1. The evangelization of the world, and
2. The edifying of the Body of Christ. (Mark 16:15,20; Eph. 4:11-13).

Divine Healing: Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. (Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16,17; Mark 16:18; John 5:14).

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 imminent and is the blessed hope of the Church. (I Thess. 4:16,18; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51,52).

The Millennial Reign of Jesus: The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on earth is the Scriptural promise and the world's hope (II Thess. 1:7; Rev. 19:11-16; Rom. 11:25,27;

The Lake of Fire: The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15).

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

Ordinances: We believe there are two Ordinances in the Church:

1. The Ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) which 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).

2. The ordinance of Communion which shall be observed regularly, as enjoined in the Scripture (Luke 22:19,20; I Cor. 11:23-26). The Communion will be administered at least once each month.

Dedication of Children: Parents have the privilege of presenting their infant children in the house of God for public dedication to God (I Sam. 1:27,28; Mark 10:13,14).

Christian Fellowship: We recognize in Christian Fellowship and affection all true believers of whatever name, and we desire to work in harmony with every organization of evangelical Christians who hold and practice the truth as it is in Christ Jesus and are organized and constituted in accordance with the Word of God for the work of the Gospel (I John 1:3; Psalm 133:1; Acts 2:1; John 17:20,21).

ARTICLE VI

Membership

Sec. 1. Membership Eligibility. Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and by laws as herein set forth.

Sec. 2. Voting Membership. All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are eighteen years of age or over, that they regularly attend and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Sec. 3. Junior Membership. There shall be a nonvoting Junior Membership for young people under 18 years of age who give evidence of the New Birth, having received Christ as personal Savior and who meet the usual qualifications for membership established by this assembly.

Sec. 4. Inactive Membership. Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, and who cease to contribute of their means to its support, who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers.

Sec. 5. Honorary Members. Honorary members shall consist of those members who have entered the ministry as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, or those serving in the Armed Services, which makes it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life and remains sound in doctrine and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the Home Assembly. These shall be considered Honorary Members without voting privileges.

Sec. 6. Associate Members. The Board of Deacons shall be authorized to make provisions for associate (nonvoting) members when such persons may have to be absent from their home assembly for prolonged periods of time such as attending college in the city where this church is located.

ARTICLE VII

Officers

Sec. 1. Officers. There shall be a Pastor, a Board of Deacons, Trustees, a secretary and treasurer. Other officers shall be added as may be needed.

Sec. 2. Deacons.

(a) The Board of Deacons consisting of not less than three members, under the oversight and guidance of the Pastor, shall be responsible for the spiritual management of the assembly. Of this Board of Deacons, one may be the secretary and one the treasurer.

- (b) The Deacons shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall as closely as possible meet the requirements as set forth in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1.
- (c) All matters of church government shall be carried on by the Official Board except in matters affecting the entire body. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification. Members of the Official Board shall be at least 21 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. Deacons can act as trustees.

Sec. 3. Trustees. Three Trustees may be elected for the holding of all church property. Their terms of office shall be for periods of three years each.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

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

Sec. 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 on the (Example: Fourth Sunday of January.) _____ of each year. This time and place shall be announced by the Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

Sec. 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, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Deacons. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of the meeting.

Sec. 4. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third or more active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Sec. 5. The Board, 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 IX

Departments and Committees

Sec. 1. Sunday School. There may be a Sunday school created and conducted as a branch of the church activities.

Sec. 2. Other Departments. As need arises other departments or committees may be established.

Sec. 3. Relationship. All departments and committees shall be subordinated to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and Board of Deacons, and the Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE X

Finances

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

ARTICLE XI

Property

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or if the church is not incorporated, by trustees and their successors in office. No property of the assembly shall be sold, leased or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a voice of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the 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 certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the article of Faith, which stands regardless of majority.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Duties of Officers

Sec. 1. The Pastor shall be considered as 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 all the business meetings of the assembly and of the Board of Deacons. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

Sec. 2. The Board of Deacons is chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of discipline.

A majority present at any meeting of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, or the pastor is unable to be present, the Board of Deacons shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business for the assembly.

Sec. 3. The Trustees shall be the custodians of all the real property of the assembly. They shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand, subject to the call of the Pastor, who shall serve as chairman.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Deacons and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal (where the assembly is incorporated).

Sec. 5. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly which may be committed to him. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name

of the assembly, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Pastor and Board of Deacons. All checks shall be countersigned by the Secretary or Pastor. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He shall make an itemized report at the regular meeting of the Board of Deacons and a summarized report to the assembly quarterly and at its regular business meetings. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE II

Elections and Vacancies

Sec. 1. The Pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time. He shall be nominated by the Board of Deacons, or by secret ballot. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A three-fourths majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

Sec. 2. Other Pastors and Employees. All associate and assistant pastors, directors of music, youth and education, and any other members of the pastoral or church staff, and all other church employees shall be appointed by the Pastor.

Sec. 3. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected annually. They shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly and may be nominated by a nominating committee or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year from the time of election.

Sec. 4. The Board of Deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly. They may be nominated by a nominating committee, or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year from the time of election.

Sec. 5. The Trustees shall be nominated by a nominating committee or from the floor, and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the assembly.

Sec. 6. The Pastor shall appoint a nominating committee from the membership for the purpose of selecting nominees for election to the board. No board member may serve on the nominating committee.

Sec. 7. (A) The Pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time. He shall be recommended by the Board of Deacons to the membership after consultation with the District Officiary regarding available candidates. Only one name shall be voted upon at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot at a special business meeting called for that purpose. A three-fourths vote of the members present and entitled to vote shall be required to constitute an election.

In the event a Pastor has serious charges preferred against him, responsibility is vested in the Board to ask for the resignation of the Pastor.

If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board has been confirmed by a majority vote of the membership at a meeting called for the purpose, such meeting to be presided over by the District Officiary. In the case of a Pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the District Officiary.

(B) Other Officers

- (a) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Board of Deacons at any regular or special business meeting.
- (b) Ground for such action shall be: (1) Unscriptural conduct. (2) Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith. (3) Incompetency in office.
- (c) Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1. The Standard of Membership.

The standard of membership of this assembly shall be:

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth). John 1:12,13; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25.
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. Rom. 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13,14; Eph. 4:17-32; Eph. 5:1,2,15; 1 John 1:6,7.
- (c) To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitutional rules of order adopted by the assembly.
- (d) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the assembly according to his or her ability.

Sec. 2. Reception of Members.

- (a) Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the Pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership.
- (b) The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Board of Deacons who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular Sunday services and their names inscribed on the roster.

Sec. 3. Discipline.

- (a) Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his 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; Rom. 16:17,18; 1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15.

Sec. 4. Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and Board of Deacons, said letter to be signed by the Pastor and the Secretary of the assembly.

Sec. 5. The Pastor and Board of Deacons 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 may 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 the standards and teachings of the assembly. The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 2 Thess. 3:6-15).

If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and Board of Deacons through the Secretary. If appeal is made to the Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final.

ARTICLE IV.

Sunday School

The Board of Deacons shall appoint the Superintendent of the Sunday School from among

the members of the church, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole. The Pastor and the Sunday school superintendent shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday school, and, in consultation with the workers of the school, determine all policies and programs of the school.

ARTICLE V

Property Rights

Sec. 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly, or by the trustees.

Sec. 2. No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

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

Sec. 4. In the event that this assembly ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel shall revert to The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, whose headquarters are located at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion. In the event of sale of the property by the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived therefrom shall be used by the District Council in furtherance of the Gospel of Christ within Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE VI

Order of Business

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

1. Devotional
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Report of Committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present.