

CELEBRATION WORSHIP CENTER
JESUS. HEALING. SULPHUR.

Bylaws
of
Celebration Worship Center
Assembly of God

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BYLAWS OF

Celebration Worship Center Assembly of God

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2023

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be Celebration Worship Center Assembly of God.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of this assembly shall be:

1. 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.

2. 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 Louisiana District 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, the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

3. 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 the state of Louisiana; all in accordance with its bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

4. To Cooperate

This assembly shall cooperate with the Louisiana District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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 Louisiana District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and practices; to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and practices 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.

6. To Restrict

Where as Article 1 of the United States Constitution says, “The First Amendment provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise.” Where as also Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana says, “No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” We as Celebration Worship Center, a bona fide religious institution whose sole purpose is to further the Kingdom of God, with respect to the State and Federal Constitutions have the absolute right to uphold the teaching of the Bible pertaining to subjects of marriage, homosexuality, transgender bathroom issue, and etc...

- (a) Holy Scripture teaches that God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man and a woman, and therefore Celebration Worship Center of Sulphur, LA will only recognize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman. Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-24 Matthew 19:4-9; Mark 10:5-9; Ephesians 5:31-33

This statement on Marriage and Sexuality specifically gives Celebration Worship Center of Sulphur, LA the right and authority to restrict the use of all Church staff, facilities and properties to uses consistent with the Bible, with its Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality, as solely determined by this Church.

- (b) In the beginning, God created mankind to be His image bearer. That is, God created man to mirror Himself to the world. In accordance to this image, God created mankind both male and female(**Genesis 1:27-28**). It requires male and female working together to adequately portray the image of God and to eliminate one piece of the equation is to dishonor the image of God, as He created man. As our society moves into a “gender-neutral” people, we have abandoned God’s call to reflect Him. Further, gender self-identification devalues human life and does not appreciate the beauty of God’s creation.

This statement on Sexuality specifically gives Celebration Worship Center of Sulphur, LA the right and authority to restrict the use of all Church facilities and properties to uses consistent with the Bible. With this being said, the leadership at CWC has decided that our bathroom facilities are to be used in accordance with the gender assigned at birth of individuals wishing to use our bathroom facilities at CWC. We have a single person bathroom located upstairs on the breezeway above the fellowship hall that can be accessed by both stairways leading upstairs.

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 with the Louisiana 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 a third (33.3%) 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/board members, and requirements for a pastor to those standards set by the Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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). Anyone who is a born again Christian may receive communion.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active Voting Membership

Active voting membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who meet 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.
- e. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- f. Having reached at least 16 years of age.
- g. Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- h. Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Louisiana District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.
- i. Complete the Next Steps Class.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

- a. Individuals who desire to become members of this church shall make such request known to the pastor or church board if no pastor is in office. The pastor/church board shall interview the applicant to determine qualification and shall present those names with a recommendation to approve or disapprove to the Church Board. The Church Board shall have the authority to render a final decision. A simple majority of all votes cast is required for approval.
- b. All those approved for membership shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular services and their names added to the membership roster.
- c. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an annual business meeting or within 10 days before a special business meeting.

Section 3. Pastor and Spouse

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during his tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to Section 1 of this Article VI.

Section 4. Inactive Membership

Active voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of 3 consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of 3 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 5. Transfer Members

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly, upon the approval of a majority of the church board.

Section 6. Associate Members

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate members by a majority vote. Eligibility for associate membership is available to any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular members, except that they shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VII of these bylaws.

Section 7. Honorary Members

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary membership is available to any member who has left the church

indefinitely in good standing. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly.

Section 8. Discipline

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.

A. Grounds

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 the 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) The 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.

D. Voting

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Church 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 other board members whose titles shall be deacons, directors, or board members, to the extent that such authority is not limited by district oversight as provided for under the bylaws of the Louisiana District Council.

B. Qualifications of Church Board Members

See qualifications for pastors and deacons below in Article VII, Section 2, subsection 4.

C. Duties of Church 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, and shall serve as the directors of the corporation.
- (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 from among its members.

Section 2. Officers

A. In General

There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president of the corporation 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 a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God and shall be in good standing with both the General Council and the Louisiana District Council of the Assemblies of God, holding a current fellowship card.

(2) Deacons

The deacons 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. Deacons shall be at least 23 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church

with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 all of 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 the approval of the pastor.
- (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) Deacons

- 1) Shall advise and assist the pastor in the administrative affairs of the church.
- 2) Shall assist in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and the ministry of its ordinances.
- 3) Shall approve or disapprove requests for membership.
- 4) Shall act in administration of discipline and restoration.
- 5) Shall provide for their own chairman in the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor. A majority present at any meeting of the board of deacons shall constitute a quorum provided that due notice has been given. In the absence of the Pastor the Church Board shall conduct the business of the church.
- 6) Shall meet with the pastor/chairman of the board in absence of a pastor monthly or at least nine times per year, for the transaction of routine business for the assembly. Time and place of the meetings shall be determined by the pastor.

(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 the duties of the office.

- (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.
- (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 4. Trustees

Trustees shall be appointed by the Pastor and/or church board from among its members to take care of any general maintenance, assist with in construction or renovation planning, and with insurance claims. They shall have a general, working knowledge of all utilities, the structures, and systems of all church owned property.

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. District Assistance

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and any member of the church board, the pastor or a majority of the Church Board may request the assistance of the District Executive Presbytery. Such assistance shall be provided according to the district bylaws.

NOTE: The following section 7 only pertains to General Council affiliated churches.

Section 7. 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 Louisiana District Council. 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 by the active members present 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

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

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

D. Deacons

Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board.

E. Process of Election

- (1) Whereas confusion and embarrassment sometimes arises from nominations from General Assembly, we believe it is in the best interest of our fellowship that these guidelines be followed in nomination of candidates.
- (2) All candidates must be chosen from the membership prior to the annual business meeting for interview, by the deacon board.
- (3) The deacon board shall present a list of all qualified candidates for nomination by the assembly.
- (4) The board of deacons shall consist of not less than three (3) qualified candidates, but may be increased at the discretion of the membership.
- (5) They shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted.
- (6) After 2 unsuccessful attempts to get a two-third's majority vote, they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present.
- (7) Deacons shall be elected for a 1-year term for their first term, and for a 3 year term after that and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected or until they are voted back into office. The terms of deacons shall be staggered appropriately.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

A. Pastor

When a vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement or interim pastor shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, Section 1 paragraph A. 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.

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. Deacons

The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, the resignation of the officer, the removal of the officer because of unchristian behavior, or upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur first. The office of deacon that is vacant shall be filled by appointment of the Pastor and/or church board from among the voting membership. The member chosen shall fill the term until the next annual business meeting.

D. In General

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the pastor) may be terminated by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a special business meeting called for the limited purpose of removal of such member from office or position of leadership which he holds.

E. Filling Vacancies

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

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under direction of the pastor or the church board if there is no pastor.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place. This meeting shall be held in the month of February. Notice of the date, time, and place shall

be announced during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. The agenda of the meeting shall be determined by the pastor and the Church Board.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

- (1) 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 a third (33.3%) 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.
- (2) Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

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 Newly 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 and who are 16 years of age or older (Article VI, Section 1).

B. Transfer Members

Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership (Article VI, Section 4), and after completing CWC's Next Steps Classes.

C. 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 8, Paragraph D).

Section 6. Quorum

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

Section 7. Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots can only be requested by active members in good standing with the church. Absentee ballots shall be signed and presented to the secretary in a sealed envelope, before the meeting is called to order. They shall be counted only on the first ballot.

Section 8. Tellers Committee

A Tellers committee shall be established for the collecting and counting of ballots before each regular or special business meeting where voting is necessary. They shall be appointed by the secretary/treasurer or deacon board. Ballots shall be counted by only tellers appointed by secretary/treasurer or deacon board.

Section 9. The Church Board

The church board shall meet monthly or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the pastor. A majority of the board members present shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a pastor(vacant office), the Chairman of the church board shall call and direct all board meetings.

Section 10. Membership Roll

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

ARTICLE X. MINISTRY TEAMS & STAFF

Section 1. In General

This pastor and or church board shall create, maintain, and dissolve such ministries, as well as hire and discharge of staff as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of the church's work. All such ministry teams and staff shall be subordinate to the pastor and or church board and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and church board, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all ministry teams.

Section 2. Ministry Teams

The ministry teams may include but not be limited to Christian Education, Life Groups, Youth, Men, Women, Worship, Prayer, Nursery & Pre-K, Media, Small Groups, Children, and etc.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCE

Section 1. In General

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, 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/or church board. (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 counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering ; with one copy going to the treasurer and the other to the pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

Section 3. Pastoral and Staff Remuneration

A. Regular Remuneration

The pastor and church staff shall be remunerated for their services by a salary or by other means agreed upon by the church board and the pastor/staff. The church board shall review the pastor and staff's remuneration and all other employees or staff at one or more times a year to accommodate for standard of living increases and/or inflation.

B. Reimbursement for Expenses

The pastor, staff, and other leaders may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of their office or ministry. Reimbursement for the pastor and staff may include expenses incurred by attendance at Sectional, Regional, District, General Council, and other meetings. Reimbursement must be made in accordance with an IRS approved, accountable plan.

C. Severance Pay

In the event a pastor or staff member is removed from office by a vote of the active voting membership of the church (*in case of pastor*), or is asked to resign by the board (*in case of staff - pastor and or church board*); they 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 assembly shall be deeded to the corporation and held in its name.

Section 2. Purchases and Sales of Property

All new purchases and sales of real property or incurring debt for the church shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership present at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

3. Defection of Doctrine

In the event defection shall occur of the church from the tenets of faith as the same are stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or from the affiliation with membership of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Louisiana Network, Celebration Worship Center shall retain possession of, and title to, all properties, monetary funds, stocks, bonds, and any other affiliated accounts or property of said church with full rights thereto as provided in its constitution and bylaws. (Only in cases of unbiblical actions, doctrine, or standards by the General Council of the Assemblies of God and/or Louisiana Network.)

Section 4. Dissolution

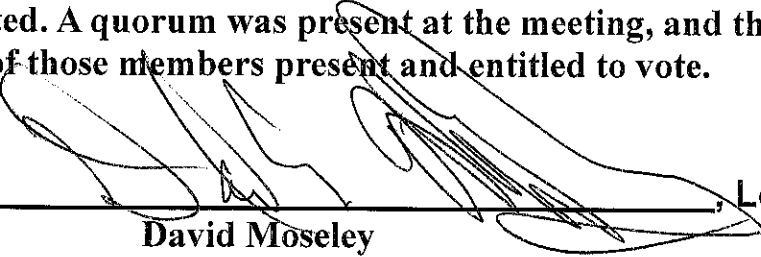
Upon the dissolution of the corporation, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to another christian ministry that is in agreement to the tenets of faith of Celebration Worship Center and is also a 501 (c)(3) organization. Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the parish 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. AMENDMENTS


These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a two third's majority vote of the voting membership present, except as otherwise indicated herein. Article IV of these bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. All amendments must be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Louisiana District Council. It is recommended that a draft of any amendments be made in writing to the pastor and or church board to make sure the amendment is in line with the District and General Councils' bylaws, and then a copy distributed to the congregation and a special meeting held to ratify the amendment into the bylaws.


DATED this 12th day of March, 2023.

For minutes of business meeting to approve: March 12, 2023 was the date of the meeting of the members at which these newly revised bylaws were adopted. A quorum was present at the meeting, and the bylaws received a 100 % vote of those members present and entitled to vote.

By:  _____, Lead Pastor
David Moseley

Board of Directors: (Print Names and Sign)

 _____
Joel Schroeder

 _____
Phil Quinn

 _____
Sheila Hanks

 _____
Marissa Perales

 _____
Morris Boulet