

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
HAMILTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC.

Revised March 2024

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, It is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the Body or Church of our Lord Jesus, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Body, the Church (Ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, counsel, education, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That we recognize ourselves a Body of Christian Believers according to Scriptural plan for the local church and under the laws of the State of Montana, that we may worship God in a united Body, exercising all other rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That we recognize ourselves to be in “cooperative fellowship” with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and an active member of the Montana Ministries Network, with national headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

This church shall be known as Hamilton Assembly of God

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES AND PREROGATIVES

Section I. - The purpose of this Church shall be:

- a. To establish and maintain a place of worship.
- b. To provide for Christian education to those of like precious faith, where the Word of God may be honored according to our distinctive testimony and fundamental beliefs; to assume our share of responsibility and privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home, in our community, and in foreign lands, as is commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20).
- c. To establish and support such departments and ministries as would become necessary to honor the call and will of the Holy Spirit in all matters pertaining to the establishing and development of the faith in accordance to the accepted doctrines and teachings of the Assemblies of God.

Section II. - The Prerogatives of this Church shall be:

- a. This Assemblies of God Church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,...till we all come in unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:3, 13).
- b. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it 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 real estate, or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE III

Tenets of Faith Statement of Fundamental Truths

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 nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it covers 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. (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, neither 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 1:3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; Hebrews 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 the 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 honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead, Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit , and Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead) 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:

His virgin birth, (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35)

His sinless life, (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22)

His miracles, (Acts 2:22; 10:38)

His substitutionary work on the cross, (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

His bodily resurrection from the dead, (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4)

His exaltation to the right hand of God. (Acts 1:9; 1:11; 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 own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. (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.

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)

The Evidence 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

BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent

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

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 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; 1:8; 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; Acts 11:14-16; Acts 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, but is different in purpose and use. (1 Corinthians 12:4-10; 12:28)

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)

The 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 the 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 worshipped 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:

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16)
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
3. 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)
4. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world. (Psalms 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:

1. 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)
2. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God. (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Cor. 12; 1 Cor. 13; 1 Cor. 14)
3. 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:

Evangelization of the world. (Mark 16:15-20)

Worship of God. (John 4:23,24)

Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion. (Psalms 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 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; Psalms 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 the 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; Rev. 22)

ARTICLE IV
Ordinances

- A. The ordinance of baptism in water (immersion) should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died (spiritually) with Jesus, and have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4)
- B. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and fruit of the vine, is the death; and a prophecy of His second coming; and is enjoined on all believers "until He comes." (John 6:48, 51, 53-57; Luke 22:19, 20; II Peter 1:4; I Corinthians 11:26).

ARTICLE V
Dedication of Children and Prayer for the Sick

- A. Infants and small children may be dedicated to the Lord in the assembly whenever requested (Mark 10:13-26; Luke 18:15, 16).
- B. The sick should be prayed for, with the anointing with oil and laying on of hands, upon their request (Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

ARTICLE VI
Finance

All funds for the maintenance and operation of the Assembly shall be provided by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Additional funds may come from special gifts, tuitions, and other means as approved by the Deacon Board. All monies shall be administered by the treasurer under the direction of the Deacon Board. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1,2; II Corinthians 9:6-8).

ARTICLE VII
Government

Section 1. Board of Deacons.

The Board of Deacons may consist of up to seven individuals, but no less than three, shall function under the leadership of the pastor and shall be responsible primarily for the business and material affairs of the church. Of this Board of Deacons, one shall serve as Secretary, selected and appointed by, and from the Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Board of Elders

The Board of Elders, consisting of not less than 3 members, shall function with the pastor and shall be responsible primarily for the spiritual oversight of the church.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

Section 1. Worship

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 Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the congregation. This meeting shall be held during the month of March. The year shall end on December 31 of each fiscal year. The 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.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the congregation may be called by the pastor or 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 congregation, the petition to be placed in the hands of the pastor or the board secretary, and an announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of the meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the congregation will request the help of the Network Officiary to resolve the matter at hand. If the matter is not resolved, a meeting is convened with a Network Officer.

Section 4. Quorum

No record of any special or regular business meeting of the Assembly shall be made unless a simple majority of active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business for the congregation, time and place to be agreed upon by the Board of Deacons.

Section 6. The Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall meet monthly for prayer and to discuss spiritual matters of the church.

ARTICLE IX

Property

Section 1. Control of Deeds

All property of the church shall be deeded to the church and held in its name. No real property of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of, nor shall such property be purchased in the name of the church without the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the active voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the congregation which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The pastor and the secretary of the board shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the congregation. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 2. Defection

In the event of defection from the Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, this church, and all its properties shall be retained by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with full rights thereto as provided in its Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. Termination or Dissolution

In the event this church shall cease to function for the purpose as declared heretofore in its Articles of its Constitution, then after providing for the payment of its debts, the remaining assets will not insure to the benefit of any private person or persons, but all such remaining assets shall revert to, and be transferred to the parent, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Montana Ministries Network and under the direction of the Presbytery of said Network.

In the event of cessation of this church, its Board of Deacons shall, within 1 year thereafter, transfer all properties and any remaining assets to the General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the foregoing provisions. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed herein or if the aforesaid, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer as an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which this church is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to an organization or organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which have established tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE X
Right of Initiative**

Any member may exercise the right of initiative in the calling of a special business meeting of the church by presenting a request, signed by at least one-third of the legal voting membership of the church, to the pastor or the Secretary of the church board, who shall proceed to issue a call for said meeting as prescribed in Article VIII, Section 3 of this Constitution. ISN'T THIS COVERED ON PAGE 10, SECTION 3?

**ARTICLE XI
Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active membership of the congregation 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. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be originated by or submitted to the Boards of Deacons and Elders for presentation to the active membership. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Tenets of Faith, which stand regardless of majority, unless they are amended by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Such amendments shall be presented at the next church business meeting for ratification by the membership.

BY-LAWS
Article I
Qualifications and Duties of Officers

Section 1 - Senior Pastor

(a) Qualifications: He shall be an ordained Assemblies of God minister, meeting the standards outlines for Elders in I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:1-4; Ephesians 4:11; and Acts 20:28.

(b) Duties: The Senior 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, of the Board of Deacons and of the Board of Elders. He shall be an Ex Officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all special meetings, conventions or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

Section 2 - Associate Pastor(s)

(a) Qualifications: Associate Pastor(s) shall be a licensed or ordained Assemblies of God minister, meeting the scriptural standards outlined above for a Senior Pastor.

(b) Special exception may be considered for individuals actively seeking licensure and upon approval by Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Section 3 - Deacons

(a) Qualifications: Deacons shall be individuals of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall at all times be expected to meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3. They shall be at least 28 years of age, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year at the time of their election.

(b) Duties: The Board of Deacons is chosen to serve the church. They shall have oversight of the needy and the widows. They shall be charged with the receiving and disbursement of finances, and shall be Trustees over all properties and corporate business matters, and shall conduct the same in a wise and scriptural manner. They shall serve as overseers of all matters of Hamilton Christian Academy, its staff and its Board. Together with the Board of Elders, they shall consider for approval all membership applications. They shall meet monthly.

(c) Persons who have been divorced shall be permitted to stand as candidates for the position of deacon.

Section 4 - Deaconesses

Women may serve as deacons of the church, if elected by the voting membership at a regular or special business meeting. She will be called upon to serve the church and she must also meet the spiritual

requirements as set forth in Article I, Section 3, item (a), Qualifications.

Section 5 - Elders

(a) Qualifications: Elders shall be individuals of mature spiritual development, who by life and by counsel are able to assist in leading and shepherding the flock of God. They shall at all times meet the scriptural standards set forth in I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:2-3. They shall be at least 40 years of age, and have been a member of Hamilton Assembly of God for a minimum of one year at the time of the appointment. Elders are appointed by the Lead Pastor.

(b) Duties: Elders shall assist the pastor(s) in all matters that arise related to the spiritual health and well-being of the congregation. They shall assist in the ordinance ceremonies of the church. Together with the pastor(s) they shall administer church discipline when needed. Together with the deacons, they shall consider for approval all membership applications, and shall give counsel to the Board of Deacons in matters mutually agreed upon. Together with their spouses, they shall involve themselves in prayer for the sick and needy, in spiritual counsel, and in visitation whenever possible.

(c) Persons who have been divorced may serve as an Elder.

Section 6 - Secretary

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 the corporate seal.

Section 7 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly. He, or his designee(s) as approved by the Board of Deacons, shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the assembly, shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Board of Deacons, and shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements.

He shall present an itemized report at the regular meetings of the Board of Deacons. His accounts may be audited under the direction of the Board of Deacons.

Section 8 - Liability of Officers (Directors)

The personal liability of an Officer (Director) to the Corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for conduct as a director is eliminated and limited to the maximum extent permitted by the Corporation Laws of the State of Montana, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended.

Article II Nominations and Elections

Section 1 - Pastor

(a) The Pastor shall be nominated by the Board of Deacons after consultation with the Network Officer regarding available candidates.

(b) Only one candidate shall be voted upon at a time at the Annual Business Meeting of the assembly or at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority of the legal voting membership present shall be required to constitute an election.

(c) The pastor's term of office shall be for a period of three years, with the first term of office dating from the nearest Annual Business Meeting. The incumbent pastor shall be voted upon for re-election. A two-thirds majority vote of the legal voting membership present shall be required for re-election. Following six (6) years of ministry, the Senior Pastor may be called for an indefinite term.

Section 2 - Nominating Committee

(a) The Nominating Committee shall consist of six members appointed by the Board of Deacons.

(b) The members of the Nominating Committee shall be selected as follows:
one Pastor, one Elder, one Deacon and three members of the assembly.

(c) They shall meet at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

(d) They shall submit to the Assembly a printed ballot containing the names of candidates for office, which they have prayerfully selected as persons being qualified for election to office.

Section 3 - Deacons

(a) The Board of Deacons shall consist of up to seven individuals.

(b) Election of the Board of Deacons shall proceed as follows:

(1) Names of the qualified persons shall be presented to the assembly by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Business Meeting.

(2) Their term shall be for three years. Deacons having served two full terms of three years will sit out one year before being offered for nomination again.

(3) A majority vote of the legal voting membership present shall be required for an election.

Section 4 - Secretary and Treasurer

(a) The Vice President shall be an Elder selected by the Board of Deacons following the Annual Business Meeting.

(b) The Secretary shall be a deacon selected by the Board of Deacons following the Annual Business Meeting.

(c) The Treasurer is appointed by the Board of Deacons following the Annual Business Meeting. This position may be filled by any member of the local body or may be filled by a deacon.

- (d) The selection of the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be for one-year term, at which time they may be re-appointed or a successor selected.

Section 5 - Elders

Elders shall originally be appointed by the Pastor, together with the Board of Deacons. Thereafter, they shall be nominated by the Board of Elders, and be appointed by the Board of Deacons. Their term of office shall be for two years, and there shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms an Elder is able to serve.

Section 6 - Election of Officers

- (a) Candidates for any office shall have been a member of the assembly for at least one year as of the date they would assume office.
- (b) Election to office shall be by a majority vote of the legal voting membership present. If there should be no election on the first ballot cast, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be further voted upon, the one candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall gain the election. By chance there is a tie for second on the first ballot cast, those tied will remain on the ballot.
- (c) The election of all offices shall take place at the Annual Business Meeting of the church or Special Business Meetings, called for that purpose, meeting the criterium.

Section 7 - Vice President

- (a) The Vice President shall serve as the Vice President of the Corporation and shall act as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Deacons.
- (b) The Vice President shall preside at Business and Board of Deacons meetings in the Pastor's absence or if the assembly is temporarily without a pastor.

Section 8 - Quorum (Boards and Committees)

A majority of the membership of any board or committee present at any of their regular or special business meetings shall constitute a quorum.

Article III Vacancies and Discipline

Section 1 - Pastor

- (a) When a vacancy in the Senior pastorate shall occur for any reason, a supply shall be arranged for by the Board of Deacons until a pastor shall be elected, as described in Article II of the Bylaws. In the event the Senior Pastor office becomes vacant, the step-by-step process shall be:
1. The Vice President shall be appointed Corporation President and Chairman of the Board of Deacons and Pulpit Committee Chairman until a new Senior Pastor is elected.
 2. All pastoral staff members shall submit their resignations to the Board of Deacons.
 3. The Board of Deacons shall serve as the Pulpit Committee or establish a Pulpit Committee to assist with the pastoral selection process. If appointed, the Pulpit Committee shall consist of the Vice President, three deacons, and three members of the assembly.
 4. The Pulpit Committee shall follow the set of guidelines in the Policy Manual for committee operation and pastoral application evaluation.
 5. No pastoral staff member may candidate for the Senior Pastor office unless members utilize the right of initiative (Article XI of the Constitution) to ask a pastoral staff member to submit an application for Senior Pastor position. This application will be considered equally with all applications received.
 6. The Pulpit Committee, if appointed by the Board of Deacons, shall submit a prioritized list of applicants to the Board of Deacons.
 7. The Board of Deacons shall follow the nomination and election process outlined in Bylaws Article II, Section 1. Pastor; until a new Senior Pastor has been elected.
- (b) In the event a pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, responsibility is vested in the Board of Deacons, after consultation with the Board of Elders, to ask for the resignation of the pastor at any of its Annual Business Meetings, having met the required criterium of a two week's notice. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board of Deacons has been sustained by a majority vote of the legal voting membership present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose, such meeting to be presided over by a Network Officer. In the case of the pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the Network Council Office.

Section 2 - 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 annual or special business meeting. In the event that an office is vacated, the term shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Deacons until the next election.
- (b) Grounds for such action shall be: (1) Unscriptural conduct; (2) departure from the Tenets of Faith; (3) incompetency in office.
- (c) A complaint may be lodged against an incumbent in office and brought before the church for action by any member exercising the right of initiative as described in Article XI of the Constitution, or upon the recommendation of the Board of Deacons.
- (d) Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a hearing of their case before the assembly, if they so request.

Article IV Membership

Section 1 - Requirements for Membership

The requirements for membership in this church shall be:

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the New Birth). (John 1:12; 13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25).
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13; 14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; I John 1:6,7).
- (c) To fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article III of the Constitution.
- (d) Willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church.
- (e) All applicants for membership shall have attended regularly for a minimum period of 6 months prior to approval for membership.

Section 2 - Reception of Members

- (a) Persons desiring to become active members of the church shall make the fact known to the pastor. He, or his designee, shall examine the applicant according to the requirements for membership (see Article IV, Section 1), and who shall acquaint them more fully with the beliefs, practices and government of the church.
- (b) The pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership, with his recommendation, to the Board of Deacons and Elders, 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 church publicly at any of the regular church services, and their names inscribed on the Membership Roster.

Section 3 - Responsibility of Members

A member of Hamilton Assembly of God is responsible to:

- (a) Pray regularly for the church and its leaders.
- (b) Attend regularly its services and activities for worship, learning and fellowship.
- (c) Seek to live out what is taught.
- (d) Give regularly of tithes and offerings.
- (e) Seek to find a place of meaningful ministry.
- (f) Practice, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the exhortations to holy living (attached hereto).

Section 4 - Categories of Members

- (a) Voting Membership
All those who have been formally accepted for membership shall constitute the legal voting

membership of the assembly, provided they are 18 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 and continue to meet all other requirements for membership in good standing. Persons who absent themselves from the services of the church for periods of time for legitimate reasons may maintain their status as voting members if a letter of request, addressed to the Board of Deacons, is approved.

(b) Junior Membership

Membership shall be available to young people from the age of 13 through 17, 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 (see Article IV, Section I of the By-laws). They shall have no voting privileges until they automatically become voting members at age 18.

(c) Honorary Members

Honorary members shall consist of those members who have entered the ministry as network officers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, religious educators, those serving in the armed services, students away from home or shut-ins, making it impossible to serve as active members. 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. (Voting privilege may be granted at the discretion of the Board of Deacons).

(d) Inactive Membership

Active voting members who are unable to fulfill the requirements for membership as stated in Article IV, Section 1, for a period of at least 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. To become active voting members again, they shall reapply for membership and submit to the procedure of receiving members in Article IV, Section 2, entitled Reception of Members.

(e) Membership Transfer

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 IV (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly. Their membership will be transferred to this assembly upon the approval of a majority of the church board.

(f) Termination of Membership

Members who shall, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall have their membership suspended, pending further action by the Board of Deacons, as recommended by the Board of Elders. Such actions shall be conveyed in writing to the affected member within 15 days of the action.

Section 5 - Discipline of Members

- (a) Any member of the church who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three (3) 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) The following shall be considered sufficient grounds for disqualifying a person as member:
 - (1) Unscriptural conduct or departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this assembly (Article III of the Constitution). (Romans 16:17, 18; Galatians 1:8, 9; I Timothy 6:3-5; II Timothy 1:13; Titus 3:10-11; Jude 3).
 - (2) Refusal to change from a life of sin. (I Cor. 5:11-13; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-18; II Thess. 3:60).
 - (3) Engaging in the disruption of fellowship by sowing discord among the brethren, persisting in gossip, or disrupting the unity of the church. (Proverbs 6:16-19; I Cor. 1:10; 3:3; Hebrews 12:14, 15; James 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:1-6).

Section 6 - Complaints and Procedures

- (a) Any complaint against a member shall be given to a pastor or a member of the Elder Board.
- (b) The pastor, together with the Board of Elders, will seek to settle the matter according to the Scriptures. If any further action is required, the Board of Elders will take action as described in this section (I Cor. 6:1-5; Matthew 18:15-22; Mark 11:25).
- (c) Before disciplinary action is taken by the Board of Elders, a member charged shall be given the right of a full hearing before the Board of Elders, including the right to face their accuser(s). If the suspected offending member does not appear, he/she forfeits his/her appeal rights, except in the case of illness or other legitimate reasons. Notice of this initial hearing, which includes charges and the time and place of the hearing, must be given the member in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.
- (d) Persons who are under charges or whose conduct is unbecoming as Christians, shall be temporarily suspended from membership, teaching, or any function of leadership, until their case is fully considered by the Board of Elders. If Scriptural reproof and correction is rejected by such members and they continue in an unchristian attitude, the name of such member shall be removed from the official Membership Roster.
- (e) Notice of the action taken by the Board of Elders shall be mailed to the member involved within seven (7) days after the ruling.
- (f) Any disciplined member may appeal to the Board of Elders for reconsideration of its action. This appeal must be filed in writing with the pastor within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice of the initial action.
- (g) If the Board of Elders' previous action is not reversed, the disciplined member may appeal for a hearing before the entire assembly. This appeal must be filed in writing with the Secretary of

the Board of Deacons within fifteen (15) days after the reconsideration meeting.

- (h) Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the secretary of a request for a hearing, an assembly meeting shall be held to take action on the appeal. A majority vote, by secret ballot, of legal voting members voting at the hearing shall determine final deposition of the case.
- (i) Any disciplinary action would become effective when the appeal process has been exhausted.

Article V Finance

Section 1 - Banking

All monies received from offerings and all other sources shall be deposited by the Treasurer or his designee(s) in the bank designated by the Board of Deacons.

Section 2 - Disbursement

The disbursement of all funds shall be under the supervision of the Board of Deacons.

Section 3 - Pastoral Remuneration

The pastor(s) and staff shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined annually by the Board of Deacons.

Article VI Departments

All departments shall be under the general oversight of the pastor and Board of Deacons. As a part of the church's Annual Report booklet, each department shall make a yearly report to the congregation of their past year's activities and their plans and goals for the coming year.

(a) Discipleship Ministries

There shall be ministries of discipleship designed to minister to the spiritual and academic demands of the membership. Discipleship includes, but is not confined to, Sunday School, Bible Studies, home groups, children's ministries, etc.

(b) Youth Ministries

There shall be a Department of Youth designed specifically to meet the current issues and special needs of modern-day youth and to provide an atmosphere for spiritual growth and development, evangelism and fellowship.

(c) Men's and Women's Ministries

There shall be Men's and Women's Departments which shall be designed to provide opportunities for ministry, fellowship and service in the local church and to advance the cause of discipleship.

Section 2 - Other Departments

As needs arise, other departments or committees may be established.

Section 3 - Relationship

All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole.

Article VII Christian School

Section 1 - Organization and Operation

(a) There shall be a Christian School conducted as an inseparable branch ministry of the assembly activities, such school is to be organized and operated to best support the purposes of the assembly.

(b) The Board of Deacons shall oversee the School Board and its right to govern the policies and practices of the school. The pastor shall have primary authority over daily operation of the school.

(c) The Board of Deacons shall appoint a principal to administer school operations. The principal shall report to the pastor. The principal shall recruit and enlist other staff members, as needed. All school-related personnel shall be selected on the basis of their commitment to Jesus Christ and their feeling a certain calling to this ministry of the Body of Christ.

(d) The school shall be operated in such a manner so as to recognize that each pupil is uniquely created of God and endowed with capabilities and interests to be what God intended him/her to be. The school's ministries shall teach listening, communication, and reasoning skills which are consistent with high academic standards and Christian principles. The school shall maintain an educational program and Christian atmosphere, which will develop the complete person, body, soul and spirit, as we are directed by God's Word.

Section 2 - School Objectives

The primary objectives of the school shall be:

(a) To insure that each child has come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, achieves a higher level of Christian maturity, attains a deeper commitment, and becomes a more effective witness for the Lord.

(b) To emphasize the individuality of each child; to assist each child in proper responsiveness to himself/herself and to others; to develop self-confidence, individual God-given talents and abilities in the areas of creativity, goal setting, communications, academics and the principles of success.

(c) To promote self-discipline by training children to be reverent, consistent, appreciative, responsible and thorough in attitude, character and actions.

(d) To assist each child in seeking his/her purpose for life's service and in making necessary preparation for eternity through emphasis upon Biblical relevance.

(e) To eliminate failure and repetition.

(f) To help each child learn how to live to honor the Lord by meeting the daily responsibilities with which God has entrusted him/her.

(g) The Bible shall be the school's primary source in recognition of the fact that all things seen and unseen have been created by God, and that all things subsist by and through Him. The Bible shall be used as a basis for training in all areas of life, as every success principle known to man is originally authored in the Bible.

Article VIII Amendments

Amendments to the By-laws may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the legal voting membership of the assembly present at any of its annual or special business meetings. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given as prescribed in Article XII of the Constitution.

EXHORTATIONS TO HOLY LIVING

Every Christian lives with Jesus on one side of him, and the world on the other side. Each beckon to us to come closer to them. Every day we make choices as to which of the two we will follow. Some Christians seem to want to see how close to the world they can live while still being a Christian. Others turn their back on the world and follow after Jesus with all their heart. The following exhortations are written to encourage you to turn your back on the world and all it represents, and turn your face fully toward Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Phil. 3:12-14).

1. Since we have both a spiritual nature and a carnal, sinful nature: (Rom. 8:5-8; Gal. 5:16).

We must do those things that will feed and strengthen our spiritual nature, such as regular reading of the Scriptures, regular times of prayer and praise to God, fellowshiping with other Christians. (Col. 3:16; 4:2; Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Tim.2:15; 3:16-17; Gal. 6:7-8).

We must stay away from anything that arouses and feeds and strengthens our sinful nature, such as movies and videos and magazines, books, music, and television programs that are sexually explicit, that show explicit violence, that are verbally profane, or that depict sin as being acceptable. (I John 2:15-17; Col. 3:5-10; Gal. 5:16-17, 24; Rom. 13:13-14).

2. Since our mind can be an instrument for either good or evil: (Titus 1:15).

We must discipline our minds and let them dwell only on thoughts that would please God: things that are good, and pure, and right, and true. (2 Cor. 10:5; Rom 12:2; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1-3).

3. Since our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit: (I Cor. 6:18-20).

We must care for it by giving it proper nutrition, rest, and exercise, and must save our sexual experiences for marriage. We must offer the parts of our body to God as instruments of

righteousness. (Rom. 6:12-13; Rom. 12:1; I Tim. 4:8; Mark 6:31; Phil. 1:20; I Thes. 5:23; I Cor. 6:13).

We must avoid those things that would have a detrimental effect on our body, such as the use of tobacco, alcohol, overeating, illegal drugs in any form. (I Cor. 3:16-17; 9:27; Rom. 8:13).

4. Since we can experience emotions and attitudes that are unholy as well as those that are holy:

We must learn to cultivate and enjoy holy emotions and attitudes, such as joy, contentment, optimism, and hope. (Gal. 5:22-23; I Tim. 6:6; I Thess. 5:16)

We must learn to discern unholy emotions and attitudes such as anger, fear, worry, pessimism, greed, resentment, lust, homosexual feelings; we need to discipline them, bring them to Jesus, and not allow them to dictate how we act. (Phil. 4:6; James 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 1:7).

5. Since others may very well follow our example:

We must follow in the footsteps of Jesus, attempting to be like Him in every way possible, such as humility, servant-hood, honesty, compassion, keeping our word, being thankful, spreading the Gospel. (Phil. 2:5-8; Rom. 8:29; I Tim. 4:12; I Thess. 5:18; Luke 19:10; Mark 16:15).

We must do nothing that would make us a stumbling block to others, such as the use of alcohol, gambling, profane language, immodest dress, secular dancing. (Rom. 14; (esp. v. 13); I Cor. 8:9-13; Eph. 4:29; Eph. 5:4; I Tim. 2:9; Prov. 13:11; Matt. 12:36-37).