BYLAWS

Of

WYOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH OF GOD

PREAMBLE

In order to provide for the orderly and equitable execution of business and to provide for a simple and adequate structure whereby the evangelistic, educational and fellowship ministries of the church can be effective, we, the members of the Church of God in Wyoming, do hereby set forth these bylaws of Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God (WGA). We hold that the church as established by Jesus Christ is a spiritual structure of which He himself is the head and recognize that obedience to the Great Commission necessitates that we work cooperatively, aided by an efficient organization. We therefore make this provision for holding, disbursing and managing donations, bequests, endowments and for holding and transfer of property and for structuring of cooperative and mutually beneficial programs.

We express the desire that every member of every local church be kept informed of the ministries and programs administered by the Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God and encouraged by the local pastor and responsible lay leaders to be actively involved and that, on occasion, some items of major importance be discussed and/or voted on in every local congregation.

It is not our intention that these bylaws shall interfere with, change, alter or modify the doctrines of the church, but rather apply only to the General Assembly’s business and program affairs.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. The responsible voting organization of this cooperative ministry of local Church of God congregations shall be known as the Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God (incorporated in the State of Wyoming as Wyoming Church of God, Inc.), hereinafter referred to as the Assembly.

Section 2. This Assembly shall be understood as affiliated with the General Assembly of the Church of God with general offices in Anderson, Indiana (GACG). It is understood, further, that this Assembly will be comprised of authorized voting representatives in harmony with the general teachings and practices held by the GACG and that these representatives are committed to Christ as Lord and Savior.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Assembly shall be to conserve, coordinate, and promote the business, educational, and evangelistic work of the Church of God in Wyoming. It shall make and execute plans for cooperative work, provide for necessary committees or boards, raise and administer funds, provide for a medium of fellowship, instruction and interchange of ideas, and to otherwise engage in religious, charitable and educational work on behalf of the church.

Section 2. The Assembly shall not infringe upon the rights of any local congregation. Its work with a local congregation shall be advisory in nature, in the spirit of service and ministry.

Section 3. The Assembly shall not be an instrument of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, but a servant of the church in carrying out its cooperative work.

ARTICLE III

MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Section 1. Membership of the Ministries Council shall consist of the Lead Pastors and one additional representative of each of the recognized congregations in the State of Wyoming. Additionally, the Regional Pastor, appointed Treasurer of the Council, and Chairperson of the Credentials Committee shall be considered ex-officio members of the Ministries Council.

a. If a Lead Pastor is unable to attend a scheduled meeting of the Ministries Council, they may, at their discretion, appoint someone to represent them at the Ministries Council meeting. The designated representative of the Lead Pastor will be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

b. If a Lead Pastor designates a representative to attend a Ministries Council meeting in their place, an additional representative from that congregation must also represent their congregation at the meeting with the Lead Pastor’s designated representative.

Section 2. The Ministries Council shall serve the interests of the Assembly, prepare the agenda for its meetings, otherwise expedite the work of the Assembly between meetings, and provide for the election and oversight of the Credentials Committee. The Ministries Council shall be responsible to screen the business to come before the Assembly. It shall be responsible to frame resolutions as necessary, and to present business in such a manner as will facilitate the work of the Assembly.

Section 3. The Ministries Council shall serve as trustees for the Assembly in the holding, use and transfer of property and in the collecting, holding and dispensing of funds for the Assembly in keeping with the directives given by the Assembly. By a majority vote recorded in its minutes, any designated agent of the Ministries Council may buy, sell, borrow, loan, lease, or otherwise deal in real or personal property for the use of the Assembly not to exceed $5,000 beyond the approved budget. Any transactions involving sums in excess of $5,000 shall be approved by a majority vote of the Assembly in any regular or special meeting of the Assembly.

Section 4. The Ministries Council shall serve as the Budget Committee for the Assembly.

Section 5. The Ministries Council shall be responsible for planning, promoting and administering evangelistic projects for the Assembly, conserving gains, assisting struggling churches, making studies before establishing new congregations, allotting financial assistance where needed and according to resources available, and otherwise serving the cause of evangelism and the task of church planting.

Section 6**.** The Officers of the Ministries Council shall consist of a Chairperson, Regional Pastor, Secretary, and Treasurer. Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled by the Ministries Council for the unexpired term only. Newly elected or appointed officers shall conduct the business of the Ministries Council starting on January first of the year following their election or appointment.

a. Chairperson: The Chairperson shall be a lead pastor elected by the Ministries Council for a term of two (2) years. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Ministries Council. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Regional Pastor, shall call meetings of the Ministries Council at such times and places as are deemed necessary for the work of the Assembly and shall carry out such additional functions as generally devolve upon the chairperson of such body.

b. Regional Pastor: The Ministries Council shall appoint a duly ordained pastor recognized by both the Assembly and the GACG as the Regional Pastor to coordinate the work of the state on its behalf. The Regional Pastor shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The Regional Pastor shall serve as the Chairperson of the Ministries Council in the absence of the Chairperson. The Regional Pastor shall work closely with the ministers and laity of the State of Wyoming to accomplish the work of the Ministries Council for the Assembly. The Regional Pastor shall also represent the State of Wyoming at all regional and national meetings of the Church of God. The Regional Pastor will also sit on the Credentials Committee and ensure that all ministers, both active and retired who are eligible to vote in the General Assembly are informed of the Assembly’s schedule and business.

c. Secretary: The Ministries Council shall elect, from within its membership, a Secretary for a two (2) year term. The Secretary shall keep a true and complete record of the proceedings of the Assembly and the Ministries Council, shall keep an accurate record of the names and addresses of all voting members, and shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all the Assembly records and minutes and provide for their prompt and complete conveyance to his/her successor in office.

d. The Ministries Council shall appoint from within or outside its membership a Treasurer. The duly appointed Treasurer shall keep in trust all funds controlled and administered by the Assembly, shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, shall give a financial report at each regular meeting of the Assembly and a monthly report to the Ministries Council and shall convey promptly and completely all records to his/her successor in office. An audit of the records of the Assembly shall be conducted every two years. The Treasurer shall have no term limits.

Section 7 The Ministries Council may serve as a Nominating Committee or appoint three members of the Assembly to serve as a Nominating Committee.

Section 8 A quorum for a meeting of the Ministries Council shall be five persons, providing all members of the Ministries Council have been informed via email or text of the meeting at least ten days prior to the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IV

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Ordained, and licensed ministers of the Church of God shall be members of the Assembly upon the following conditions:

1. They must be approved, in good and regular standing, and certified by the Wyoming Credentials Committee.

b. They must reside in Wyoming.

c. They must be engaged in the active ministry of the Church of God, such as and including lead pastors, associate pastors, ministers of education, and area ministers.No persons shall be given ministerial status or voting privilege in the Assembly whose ministerial credentials are questioned by the Credentials Committee of the Assembly.

Section 2. Each local congregation shall be entitled to one lay representative per fifty members as voting members of the Assembly. These representatives shall be selected in the local congregation by methods determined by the local church.

Section 3. All voting members of this Assembly shall be eighteen years of age or older, and residents of Wyoming.

Section 4. The Secretary of the Ministries Council shall serve as secretary of the Assembly and shall maintain a list of the local churches affiliated with its work and their representatives to the Assembly. Prior to the annual meeting of the Assembly, each participating church will send to the Secretary of the Assembly the names of authorized representatives.

Section 5. The officers of the Ministries Council and Regional Pastor shall be voting members of the Assembly.

Section 6. As a well-deserved honor for faithful service, retired ministers who remain in fellowship and good standing with the Assembly may also retain their vote in the Assembly.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

The Ministries Council or Regional Pastor shall appoint any and all necessary committees to carry on the work of the organization.  At least one member of the Ministries Council must be a member of any committee. Committees shall be appointed for no longer than a year term.  Committees may be recreated or sustained by the Ministries Council.

ARTICLE VI

BUSINESS AND CALENDAR

Section 1. Meetings:  The annual meeting of the Assembly shall be held in the fall of each year.  Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the Ministries Council.

Section 2. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. The terms of elected officers shall be for the fiscal year. Ministry Council Officers are ratified during the annual Assembly meeting.

Section 3. Quorum: A majority of the voting members of the Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Order of Business: The basic order of business for the Assembly and its Boards and Committees shall be on the following basic pattern, except that by a majority vote of those present and voting the order of business may be changed:

a. Prayer

b. Reading and/or acceptance of the minutes of last meeting

c. Reports

d. Old or unfinished business

e. New Business

f. Ratification of officers and counting of ballots for matters of special significance

Section 5. Regarding Order: All meetings of the Assembly and its Boards shall provide opportunity for all members to ask questions, express opinions, and call for action. *Robert’s Rules of Order* may be consulted for a general guide when there is a disagreement or question about procedure. However, we proclaim that the ultimate Rule of the Church is Christ. Therefore, the Chairperson of the Ministries Council is expected to preside over the meeting in the spirit of Christ and to be respected with the same spirit by all present.

ARTICLE VII

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE WYOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1. The Credentials Committee of the Wyoming General Assembly is responsible for the certification of all ministerial credentials in accordance with the Credentials Manual of the GACG.

Section 2. The Credentials Committee shall also determine for the Assembly those congregations which are recognized as congregations of the GACG.

Section 3. The Credentials Committee, in conjunction with the Regional Pastor, shall serve as an advisory group for congregations or pastors requesting their assistance and advice during times of crisis or special consequence. The Ministries Council or Assembly may also direct the Credentials Committee to initiate conversations with congregations in crisis situations.

Section 4. The Ministries Council shall appoint at least three individuals to form the Credentials Committee. In addition to those three, the Regional Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the Credentials Committee to ensure that the concerns of the local congregations, the Assembly, and the GACG are all being addressed within the Credentials Committee.

Section 5. The Credentials Committee shall operate in accordance with the Credentials Manual of the GACG. It may create and adopt its own bylaws but will still report and be accountable to the Ministries Council, the Assembly, and the GACG.

Section 6. Members of the Credentials Committee shall serve two-year terms (unlimited terms). The Credentials Committee, with the exception of the Regional Pastor, must be comprised of members from at least two member churches of the Assembly and only two members may represent the same church.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meetings of the Assembly, provided that all voting members of the Assembly have had at least two weeks advance notice of the meeting and have been informed of the intent to amend the bylaw at said meeting.

These Bylaws were considered and adopted on 16 October Anno Domini2021 in Casper, Wyoming.

Chairperson: Shane Legler Regional Pastor: Don Bergstrom