

New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches

**Constitution (Articles of Incorporation)
Preamble, By-laws and Definitions with indexes**



**Adopted March 18th, 2007
Revised March 25, 2009**

New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches
(Articles of Incorporation)
Index:

Article I - Name _____	Page 3
Article II - Prerogatives _____	Page 3
Article III - Affiliation _____	Page 4
Article IV - Tenets of Faith _____	Page 5
Article V - Membership _____	Page 5
Article VI - Officers _____	Page 5
Article VII - Meetings _____	Page 5
Article VIII - Departments and Committees _____	Page 6
Article IX - Finances _____	Page 6
Article X - Property _____	Page 6
Article XI - Right of Intervention _____	Page 6
Article XII - Dissolution of Assembly _____	Page 7
Article XII - Amendments _____	Page 7
Index to By-laws _____	Page 8

New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches

Constitution

(Articles of Incorporation)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this church organization shall be **New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches** in the city of Southwest Ranches, Florida.

ARTICLE II: PREROGATIVES

Section 1

1.1 To establish and maintain a place of worship.

Section 2

2.1 To conduct under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures the work of evangelizing both the home and foreign field in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:19, 20); and in harmony with the teachings and practices of His servants and apostles (Acts 8:4, 5, 25, 26-40; 13:1-4; 16:6,10; Romans 10:12-17; 15:18-20; II Corinthians 10:16).

- A. Choosing its own pastor
- B. Electing its own Board of Directors
- C. Transacting all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit
- D. Administering discipline to its members according to the scriptures
- E. Choosing and sending delegates to the annual District Council and to the biennial General Council, (General Council's Constitution, Article VII, Section 2)

Section 3

3.1 To establish such departments as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the support of Missionary activity.

Section 4

4.1 To own, rent or lease real and/or personal property as the Board of Directors deems necessary to carry out the general purposes of the church organization.

4.2 In general, to own, buy, acquire by gift or lease, to sell, convey or hypothecate such property, whether real or personal, in order to carry out the general purposes of the church organization.

4.3 To hire, retain, employ or contract with such persons and/or businesses as may be necessary and convenient to carry out the general purpose of the church organization.

Section 5

5.1 To improve and/or develop and/or otherwise make changes to any and all real property owned and/or leased and/or controlled by the corporation for the use and benefit of the church organization.

Section 6

6.1 To borrow and/or loan money with or without security as allowed by law and/or administrative rule for regulation.

Section 7

7.1 To enter into, make, perform or carry out contracts in order to and necessary to carrying out the general purpose of the church organization.

Section 8

8.1 The purpose for which the church organization is organized is to operate a non-profit religious organization. The church organization, through its Board of Directors, is authorized to exercise those powers necessary to carry out the general purposes of the church organization as allowed by law, administrative rule or regulation. With the only such limitation on said power being that the corporation is not created or established in order to create pecuniary gain or profit to the members of said church organization. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Article X, Section 3, Paragraph C, of the Peninsular Florida District Council By-Laws.

ARTICLE III: AFFILIATION

This church organization shall affiliate itself with the Peninsular Florida 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; nevertheless, it shall maintain its inherent rights in the conduct of its own affairs as per Article 10, Section 4A of the Peninsular Florida District Council By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV: TENETS OF FAITH

We do agree to the Tenets of Faith of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. (These cannot be amended under any conditions by the local church.)

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

1.1 Membership in this church organization shall be extended, upon applications, to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth, as duly amended.

Section 2

2.1 The membership shall consist of voting and non-voting members; their respective rights, qualifications, and privileges shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

The officers of this church organization shall consist of the pastor, the deacons, the secretary, the treasurer, and such other officers as the church organization may deem advisable, in conformity with its By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1

1.1 Public Services - Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and at such other times as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 2

2.1 Business Meetings - An annual business meeting of the church organization and such special business meetings as may be needed shall be called as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII: DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The church organization shall hereby provide for the establishment of as many departments and committees as the church may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the church organization and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole and organized as set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCES

Section 1

1.1 All funds for the operation, development and maintenance of the church organization shall be provided by gifts, devices, bequests, legacies, trusts, annuities, voluntary contributions, and the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-8)

Section 2

2.1 All monies shall be deposited in a responsible bank, and disbursements and funding shall be made in accordance with the By-Laws.

ARTICLE X: PROPERTY

All property shall be held in the corporate name of the organization. Real property may be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated upon authorization of a two-thirds vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting membership present at a regular or special business meeting called for that purpose (see By-Laws).

ARTICLE XI: RIGHT OF INTERVENTION

After notification to the Board of Directors and at least two consultations with the Board of Directors, the district superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God shall have the privilege of intervention in the following situations: If the pastor, other officers, or the church do not comply with the tenets set forth by the General Council and District Council, as well as the Constitution and By-Laws of this assembly; or if the pastor, other officers, or church engage in conduct and practices unbecoming to Assemblies of God members or that would engender strife or disharmony in the church organization.

The district superintendent may call a meeting of the church to protect the rights of either the majority or minority. Such a meeting may be called after announcement at one Sunday service, provided the membership has been notified of said meeting by mail. The church may be placed in the hands of the District Officiary and the church may end the District's intervention and/or control by a majority vote of a minimum quorum.

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION OF ASSEMBLY

All property of this church organization shall irrevocably be dedicated to the purposes of this church organization as set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws. Upon dissolution of the assembly all property shall be governed by Article XII, Section 6 of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the church organization who are in attendance at any regular or special business meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting. However, this right to amend shall not be construed as authorization to amend Article IV: Tenets of Faith.

New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches Preamble and By-laws

Index:

Article I - Name	Page 9
Article II - Orders	Page 10
Article III - Membership	Page 10
Article IV - Meetings	Page 14
Article V - Unauthorized Activities	Page 15
Article VI - Officers	Page 16
Article VII - Elections and Vacancies	Page 18
Article VIII - Finances	Page 21
Article IX - Cooperation with District and General Councils	Page 22
Article X - World Missions	Page 23
Article XI - Departments and Committees	Page 23
Article XII - Property Rights	Page 24
Article XIII - Civil Government	Page 25
Article XIV - Order of Business	Page 25
Article XV - Amendments	Page 25

New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches Preamble and By-laws

Preamble

Since 1956 we have, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this assembly shall be New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches.

New Hope Inc. in Southwest Ranches By-Laws

ARTICLE II: ORDERS

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure (as stated in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, published 1970), in keeping with the spirit of Christian love, courtesy, and fellowship. It shall be recognized that the purpose of rules and forms of procedure is to sub serve the will of the assembly rather than to restrain it; to facilitate, and not to obstruct, the expression of its deliberate sense.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

1.1 Standard of Membership - The standard of membership of this assembly shall be:

- A. Evidences of a genuine experience in regeneration (new birth). (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25)
- B. Evidences of a consistent Christian Life. (Romans 6:4; 13:13-14; Ephesians 4;17-32; 5:1-2; 15; I John 1:6-7)
- C. Subscription to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitution.
- D. Regular contributions to the support of the assembly according to the Scriptures. (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-9)
- E. Evidence of a cooperative, humble and Christ-like spirit as the Scriptures enjoin.
- F. Fulfillment of the requirements of a membership class.

Section 2

2.1 Reception of Members

- A. Persons desiring to become members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the Pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
- B. The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for

membership with his recommendation to the Board of Directors, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision; after which, said persons who are voted in as member(s) shall be presented to the congregation as new member(s) the following Sunday. The new member(s) shall be issued a membership card within 30 days by the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

2.2 Classification of Members

A. Voting Membership - All members 18 years of age and older, whose names appear on the membership roster and who are in good standing shall be entitled to exercise the right to vote, unless they are under charges as stated in Section 5, Subsection (F) of the this Article. No member shall be eligible to vote in the election of pastor or deacons unless he has been a member of the church for at least 90 days.

B. Ministerial Membership - Pastors and persons holding any ministerial credentials may vote in all matters pertaining to the church, but are ineligible to hold an elected church office.

C. Honorary Membership -

(1) Those that the church desires to honor because of some special service rendered to the assembly may also be granted honorary membership.

(2) Those that have moved away and desire to retain fellowship with the church may be listed as honorary members. Honorary members may attend business meetings of this assembly if they desire, but shall not speak except upon invitation of the chairman; neither shall they vote or hold any elective office within the church.

(3) 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.

D. Inactive Members - Voting members who:

(1) Shall, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three (3) consecutive months or more.

(2) Cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of three (3) months.

(3) Shall be under charges of misconduct who may have fallen

under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered inactive members, if found guilty shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to full fellowship. The standing of such persons under charges shall be settled by definite and prompt action of the assembly through its elective officers. (All charges to be in writing and the members shall be notified of same by certified mail). Persons losing the right to vote for any of the reasons listed above shall not be allowed to exercise voting privileges in a business meeting of the assembly for a period of at least sixty (60) days following their restoration to voting membership by the aforesaid action of the assembly's elected officers.

Section 4

4.1 Obligation of Members

A. Cooperative Action - The membership of this church shall give consent to its forms of government, together with the past policies mutually agreed upon. They shall agree to the policy of fundamental unity and agreement. They shall conform to the Scriptural injunction that there are no divisions in the body. They shall be subject to those who may be delegated to rulership the Word of God plainly teaches. They shall recognize the principle of Christian fellowship may be kept inviolate and perpetuated, recognizing its fundamental importance.

B. Attitude Toward Strife - Inasmuch as no Christian institution can comply with the plain teaching of Scripture unless unity and harmony predominate within its circle, no member of this body may use means to incite or engender strife, but shall work in harmony with the membership and its officers, as did the early church. (Acts 2:42) If there is cause for dissatisfaction, it shall be called to the attention of the pastor and the Board of Directors. At their discretion, necessary discipline may be made. (Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 18:15-18)

C. Financial Support - All members shall be supporting members in proportion, as the Lord shall prosper them (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 9:6-9), thereby acknowledging that any institution can stand or be of full service only in proportion as all its members accept their responsibility in maintaining it.

Section 5

5.1 Discipline - Discipline shall be exercised by the Board of Directors. Some grounds for exercising discipline or expulsion from the church shall include the following:

A. Absence from the services of the assembly for an extended period

ninety (90) days without reasonable cause. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

B. Failure and neglect to financially support the work consistently. (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 9:6-9).

C. Living an immoral and sinful life, refusing to conform to Scriptural conduct. (Ephesians 5:3-7; I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:6-10; Galatians 5:19-21)

D. Promulgation of erroneous, inconsistent, and false doctrine. (Romans 16:17; I Timothy 6:4-5; II Timothy 1:13)

E. Persistence in those things which the Scriptures forbid, such as being habitual busy-bodies (II Thessalonians 3:11; I Timothy 5:13; I Peter 4:15), unbridled tongue (James 1:25-26), evil speaking (Matthew 12:33, 37; Ephesians 4:31), backbiting (Romans 1:30; II Corinthians 12:20), tale-bearing (Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 17:9), slander (Psalms 101:5; 50:19-20; Luke 7:33-34), bitterness (Ephesians 4:31-32; James 3:14, 16), murmuring (John 6:43; I Corinthians 10:10), strife (Philippians 2:3; II Timothy 2:14), engendering division and schism (Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 3:3; II Corinthians 1:10-11).

F. Any church member who shall be under charges (in writing) shall be temporarily suspended from voting membership pending prompt investigation and decision. Said member shall be notified by certified mail of any such charges.

Section 6

6.1 Right of Appeal - Any member who has been disciplined has the right to appeal. Appeal is to be made to the Board of Directors. If appeal to the Board of Directors for reconsideration and reinstatement is denied, then the dismissed member may appeal through the Official Church Secretary for a special called meeting of the church members. The action, by a majority vote (50% + 1) shall be considered final. (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:15; 1st Thessalonians 3:6-15)

Section 7

7.1 Revision of Membership Roll

A. Members in good standing who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation may apply for a letter of transfer, which shall be granted on approval of the Pastor.

B. The Pastor and Board of Directors shall, annually, and before the

election of a pastor, or considering other important matters, revise the membership roll of the assembly and shall remove from the list of voting members all names of those who have deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have been disciplined according to Section 5.

C. Persons whose names are removed shall be notified of the action by a certified letter from the Pastor or official secretary.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1

1.1 Regular Services - Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be determined by the Pastor and the Deacons.

Section 2

2.1 Special Services - Revivals, rallies, missionary services, conventions, and other special services shall be planned by the pastor. The Pastor will consult with the Deacons in such planning; he shall keep them informed of such plans.

Section 3

3.1 Annual Business Meetings - The annual business meeting shall be held in March. At the annual business meeting there shall be an election of officers, a report from pastors, officers, committees, and departments. The order of business shall be as set forth in Article XIV of the By-Laws.

Section 4

4.1 Special Business Meetings - Special business meetings of the assembly (excluding a call to vote on the Pastor, ref. Article VII ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES, Section 1, Subsection (a) (5)) may be called by the Pastor or by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors to handle special matters, such matters to be specified in announcements calling said meetings.

Section 5

5.1 Initiatives - Special business meetings also may be called by petition, signed by not less than forty percent (40%) of the voting membership of the assembly. The petition shall be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Board of Directors by certified mail, who must publish required notice of business meeting.

Section 6

6.1 Notices

A. Notice of all annual and special business meetings shall be published in the church bulletin and by announcement on the two consecutive Sundays prior to such meeting.

B. Exception - In case of exercising Right of Intervention (See Article XI of the Constitution), a business meeting may be called after being announced at one Sunday service, provided the members are notified of such a meeting by mail.

Section 7

7.1 Board of Directors Meetings - Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of eight (8) times per year. The meeting shall be called by the Pastor. In the event the church is temporarily without a pastor, the Board of Directors shall provide a chairman from among its membership. He shall be empowered to call Board of Directors meetings.

Section 8

8.1 Quorum

A. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the voting membership of the church must respond to a call for a business meeting in order to constitute a quorum.

B. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the voting membership of the assembly shall be required to constitute a quorum when voting on the Pastor for election.

C. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting membership of the assembly shall be required to constitute a quorum when voting on a resolution authorizing the purchase of real property or to sell, lease, and mortgage.

D. A majority of the Board of Directors or committee shall constitute a quorum, provided all members receive adequate notice.

ARTICLE V: UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

No member of this church shall promote private enterprises or activities which involve the membership of this church, and over which the church has no control, or which have not been sanctioned by the Pastor and Board of Directors, such as private prayer meeting, etc. No member shall use his influence to draw other members of the church into such outside activities. If additional services are

desired besides those provided for, such services must have the approval of the Pastor, and be under his general supervision. In the event the church is temporarily without a pastor, such services must have the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1

1.1 Pastor

A. The Pastor shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the chairman of all business meetings of the church assembly; he shall be a voting member, ex-officio, of the Board of Directors, committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions and revival campaigns as it relates to the church assembly.

B. The Pastor is directly responsible for the church as its administrative and spiritual head or overseer. No Board of Directors, committee or group shall supersede the authority vested by Scripture in the office and duties of the pastor, or interfere in the relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The Scriptural meaning of the word "pastor" (Ephesians 4:11) being "shepherd", "bishop", "elder" (I Timothy 3:1, Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:7), "overseer" (Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:5; Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:2), and being of divine appointment, these prerogatives shall not be delegated by lay persons, as this is contrary to the divine method.

C. Delegating authority –

(1) The Pastor, as chairman, having the consent of the Board of Directors, may delegate the powers of chairman of the church assembly to any other officer of the church assembly, except the secretary, for the performance of the same in the place and stead of the chairman, on a temporary basis, insofar as such delegation be not in conflict with the law of the state of Florida.

(2) In the event the church is temporarily without a pastor, the Board of Directors may designate one of its members, excluding the secretary, as chairman until the election of a pastor. After said election, the chairmanship of the Board of Directors shall pass to the Pastor.

D. Vacation - The Pastor shall be given annual paid vacation of a minimum of three weeks, time and length to be determined by mutual agreement.

E. District and General Council Meetings - The Pastor shall endeavor to represent the church in sectional, district, and General Council activities. The church shall accept its financial responsibilities, as far as is possible, for the Pastor's attendance at district and General Council activities. Such attendance shall not be considered a part of the Pastor's vacation.

Section 2

2.1 Assistant Pastors, Minister of Youth, Minister of Music, etc. - The initiative of hiring, terminating and/or compensating an assistant's term of office shall be the prerogative of the pastor with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3

3.1 Board of Directors - There shall be a Board of Directors which shall be comprised of the Pastor and a minimum of four Deacons. The Board of Directors shall be elected from the voting membership of the church, and shall have been members for at least twelve (12) months prior to nominations for office. Any time the term "Board of Directors" is used in these By-Laws, it is understood to include the Pastor as chairman and elected members, whether stated or not. The secretary shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

A. Office of Deacons

(1) Scriptural authority for the office - The first mention of this office in the Bible is Acts 6:1-7. The primary purpose of the office is service and spiritual ministry. (I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7)

(2) Qualifications for the office - The qualifications set forth by Paul in I Timothy 3:8-13. They are to be:

- a. Members of mature experience who are recognized for their ministry and service to the body. (I Timothy 3:10)
- b. Spirit-filled members. (Acts 6:3; Acts 2:4)
- c. Members of high reputation and character. (I Timothy 3:10; Acts 6:3)
- d. Regular contributions to the support of the assembly according to the Scriptures (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-9). As a leader in the church, he should meet his responsibility to support it with his tithes and offerings.

(3) Duties - The Deacons, along with the Pastor, shall serve on the Board of Directors and shall act in making all decisions in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life.

- a. They shall act in the examination of applications for membership.
- b. They shall act in the administration of discipline of the membership.
- c. They shall assist in the ministry of the church ordinances.
- d. They shall serve as a visiting committee in bedside ministry to the sick and for the spiritual uplift of the membership, and in all other ways requested by the Pastor in carrying out duties pertaining to the spiritual = life of the assembly.

Section 4

4.1 Office of the Secretary - The secretary shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the annual business meeting and all special business meetings of the assembly. He or she shall keep a record of membership of the assembly and perform other clerical work necessary for the proper discharge of these duties.

Section 5

5.1 Office of the Treasurer - The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly which may be committee to him. All finances shall be deposited in a responsible bank, designated by the Board of Directors, in the name of the assembly, and shall be signed with a minimum of two signatures as authorized by the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall be responsible for an itemized accounting of all the receipts and disbursements, and shall make a financial report at the regular meetings of the Board of Directors. The books of the treasurer may be examined at any time by the Board of Directors; they also may be examined by any voting member of the church in the presence of the pastor and treasurer of the Board of Directors within to (10) days after giving written request.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1

1.1 Elections

- A. Pastor
 - (1) Qualifications - The Pastor shall be a duly qualified Assemblies of God Minister in good standing with the General Council and District Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be in harmonious accord with these By-Laws. He shall be a person of

good report whose life and conduct conform with the Scriptures. (I Timothy 3:3-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3)

(2) Nominations - Pastoral candidates shall be nominated by the Board of Directors after consultation with the District Superintendent or Sectional Presbyter. Recommendations may be made to them by the District Superintendent, Sectional Presbyter, or any member of the assembly. All pastoral elections shall be chaired by a District Official or the Sectional Presbyter.

(3) Elections - Election shall be by secret ballot at a business meeting called for that purpose. Two-thirds of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election (see Article IV, Section 8.1, Paragraph (b) of the By-Laws). No more than one candidate shall be presented at any business meeting.

(4) Tenure of Office - The tenure of office for the pastor shall be for an indefinite period of time.

(5) Recourse - If the Pastor seems to overstay his period of ministry usefulness, counsel in the matter shall be sought from the District Superintendent. However, persons in the church so minded are advised to be extremely careful that no personal antagonisms or dislikes enter into the situation, lest they be charged with engendering strife and discord, and in turn be disciplined. No person may take it upon himself to decide when the ministry of the Pastor would be terminated. This alone is the duty of the whole church. Laws of sound administration, being based upon adherence to Scripture rather than personality, shall govern the matter.

B. Deacons - The Deacons, of which shall be a minimum of four, shall be chosen from the voting membership of the assembly. Candidates for the office shall be presented by a nominating committee to the voting membership at its annual business meeting. Two or more names shall be provided for each office to be filled if qualified candidates are available, and shall be elected by a majority vote. At time of adoption of the By-Laws one shall be elected to serve one year, one shall be elected to serve two years, and one shall be elected to serve three years. Upon the expiration of the terms of office the succeeding members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to serve a term of three years each. Any member who has served a term of office may be re-elected to succeed himself as a deacon.

C. Nominating Committee - There shall be a nominating committee of not less than five members including the pastor as chairman, said committee to be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the annual

business meeting. The nominating committee shall present at least two nominees, if available; for each office to be filled at the annual business meeting. The nominating committee shall be charged to consider and recommend members that are very spiritual, grounded in the Word, and already active in ministry and service until the church and the Lord. A member of the said committee shall ascertain the willingness of each nominee to have his name presented. Names may be submitted for consideration of the nominating committee by any voting member of the church during the nominating period prior to the annual business meeting.

D. Voting - The secret ballot shall be used in filling all elective offices of this church.

E. Absentee Ballots - Absentee ballots may be counted only when vote is cast for officers of the assembly, said absentee ballot shall be counted on the nomination and first elective ballot for a given office. No absentee ballots shall be accepted in a vote upon an issue to be discussed by the membership at a given business meeting. No proxy votes shall be allowed.

Section 2

2.1 Vacancies

A. The Pastor

(1) The tenure of office in the pastorate shall be terminated by death, resignation, disqualification, or removal. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a temporary supply shall be arranged for by the Board of Directors to serve while a pastor is being chosen. If the Pastor makes a decision to resign, the resignation shall be in writing addressed to the church and the district superintendent. He shall read his resignation to the congregation at the Sunday morning service or any of the regular or specially called meetings of the assembly. This action shall be considered legal and final by the assembly. In the event the Pastor does not follow the above, but gives his resignation orally at any Sunday service or specially called meeting of the assembly, such resignation shall be considered legal and final unless refused by a majority vote of the membership at the time of said resignation. The district superintendent shall be notified of his resignation.

(2) In case of the resignation or removal of the Pastor, he shall allow or be given, a period of at least thirty (30) days to vacate the pulpit, or shall receive severance pay for a minimum of thirty (30) days, or as agreed upon by the Pastor and Board of Directors.

(3) Before leaving the church, he shall notify the district

superintendent of his desire to vacate and shall cooperate with the church and the district superintendent in securing candidates for the pastorate. The church shall not be left in the hands of a novice or a layman, except such arrangement is under the supervision of the district superintendent, as the Scriptures and experience have proved the dangers in so doing.

B. Other Officers

(1) Resignation - Any of the offices of the Board of Directors may be vacated by resignation. Such resignation shall be stated to the Board of Directors or may be given in writing. Said statement, oral or written, shall be considered final. The Board of Directors will use its discretion in appointing a replacement Deacon. After this replacement Deacon is named he will be ratified by the Members at a Special Business Meeting called within two Sundays of the original Deacon's resignation. The replacement Deacon will serve out the remainder of the original term of the vacated position at which time at the Annual Meeting of the Members a regular election will be held for that position. In the case where all of the Deacons resign at once, the Pastor will use the same procedure stated herein this paragraph to find the replacement Deacons and have them ratified by the Membership.

ARTICLE VIII: FINANCES

All funds for the operation, development, and maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by gifts, devises, bequests, legacies, trusts, annuities, voluntary contributions, and the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-9.

Section 1

1.1 Regular Church Fund - All monies received from offerings and all other sources shall be part of the regular church fund and shall be deposited by the treasurer in a bank designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

2.1 Other Offering, Receipts, etc. - Departments of the church may receive offerings and raise funds according to established church policies. No monies shall be collected on behalf of the church by individual members of the church for any cause without the consent of the Pastor and/or Board of Directors.

Section 3

3.1 Annual Church Budget - The church budget shall be under the supervision of the Pastor and Board of Directors with oversight by the treasurer and Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall submit an Annual Budget to be reviewed and approved. The Church budget shall be presented to the congregation for final approval at the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE IX: COOPERATION WITH DISTRICT AND GENERAL COUNCILS

Section 1

1.1 Privileges and Responsibilities - This church shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities of affiliation with the District and General Councils. It shall comply, according to its ability, with the agreements and programs devised and adopted in the Council of all the churches at District and General Council conventions.

Section 2

2.1 Areas of Responsibility

A. Financial

(1) This church shall support and forward funds regularly to the District Council after review by the Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

(2) This church shall support and forward funds regularly to the General Council after review by the Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

B. Conventions - This church shall, insofar as is possible, send its pastor and one lay delegate to the District and General Councils, and defray their expenses insofar as is able.

C. Christian Education - With the assistance of the finance committee, this church shall cooperate with and support, according to its ability, Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God and district approved Christian educational institutions and programs.

D. Other Ministries - With the assistance of the finance committee, the church shall cooperate, according to its ability, with the Missionary, Youth Ministries, Women's Ministries, Missionettes, Royal Rangers, and other such programs sponsored by the District and General Councils.

Section 3

3.1 Call the Assistance - If a condition shall arise in the church that tends to disunity, and the pastor and Board of Directors are unable to adjust the situation immediately, the district superintendent shall be called upon by the Pastor to assist in doing so.

NOTE: The district superintendent's duties involve rendering assistance to the churches of our fellowship, and he is subject to the call of a substantial minority of the church, if in his judgment, the case in question demands his presence.

ARTICLE X: WORLD MISSIONS

Section 1

1.1 Foreign Missions

A. This church shall cooperate with, and support the work of Foreign Missions of the Assemblies of God.

B. The Pastor shall invite missionary speakers as time and circumstances permit.

C. Regular monthly missionary faith promises and other special offerings shall be received and forwarded to the missions that we support.

ARTICLE XI: DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1

1.1 Departments - All departments shall be conducted as branches of the church and shall be under the general supervision of the Board of Directors. Said departments shall be organized according to District and General Council policies. The various departments of the church may obtain district recommended constitution and by-laws from their respective department officers of the district.

Section 2

2.1 Committees - Committees may be appointed to serve the church as the need may arise.

ARTICLE XII: PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1

1.1 Title of Property - All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the name of the assembly.

Section 2

2.1 Authorization for Purchase of Real Property - Authorization to purchase or otherwise acquire real property shall be given by seventy-five percent (75%) vote of a quorum present and voting (See Article VI, Section 8.1, Paragraph (c) of the By-Laws) at a regular or special business meeting called for that purpose.

Section 3

3.1 Authorization to sell or Encumber - The sale, lease, mortgage, or alienation of the real property of this assembly shall be authorized by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of a quorum present and voting (See Article IV, Section 8.1, Paragraph (c) of the By-Laws) at a regular or special business meeting called for that purpose.

Section 4

4.1 Transactions in Interim between Pastors - Church or ministries related property shall not be sold, purchased, leased, mortgaged or alienated in the interim while the church has no pastor, unless negotiations had begun before the vacancy occurred. In all cases during this period, guidance of the district may be sought.

Section 5

5.1 Certification - The Board of Directors chairman or any other designated officer and secretary of the assembly shall certify in such purchases, conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. The Board of Directors chairman or any other designated officer and the secretary shall sign all papers and documents required in carrying out the will of the membership in such matters (in accordance with Article VI. Section 4.1).

Section 6

6.1 Dissolution - All property of this church body shall irrevocably be dedicated to the purposes of this church organization as set forth in its constitution and By-Laws; and in the event of dissolution, its president and secretary are hereby authorized and instructed to convey title to all of its property and assets to the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, a non-profit

corporation organization and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes, which qualifies for exemption from Federal Income Tax under provisions of Section 501(C) 3 of Internal Revenue Code, State Franchise Revision Code – provided the Executive Presbytery shall elect to receive the same. Whereupon the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God shall take possession of said property and assets, and after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the church body, shall use the property or the proceeds there from for the furtherance of the purposes of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God. In the event that the church dissolves without taking a formal vote in regards to the property, all properties and assets shall automatically revert to the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God as stated above. Certification of such dissolution shall be made by the district secretary, when authorized by the Executive Presbytery of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God. This section may not be amended.

ARTICLE XIII: CIVIL GOVERNMENT

As a church, we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace. We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose for himself whether to declare his position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XIV: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the assembly shall be determined by the Pastor and the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, announcement to be made by the pastor or the church secretary. However, this right to amend shall be construed as authorization to amend Article XII, Section 6.1; Dissolution of the Assembly.