Constitution and Bylaws
of the
Pentecostal Church of God
Southern Missouri District, Inc

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Revised September 2026

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Faith and Doctrine
of the
Pentecostal Church of God

Doctrinal Statement

As a Christian constituency of New Testament believers, we, the Pentecostal Church of God, subscribe to the following declaration of the things which are more surely believed among us (Luke 1:1), praying that there be no harmful nor divisive difference of belief to the injury of any, nor the disturbance of the peace and harmony of the church, and that we may be all of the same mind and same judgment, speaking the same things in love (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42) and with one voice glorifying God, to the edification of His people, and to give Christian witness to the world.

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and constituting the Divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:21).

2. The Godhead

We believe there is but one true and living God, who is everlasting, infinite in power, wisdom and goodness; that He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and preserver of all things (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16). In the unity of this Godhead, there are three Persons of one individual essence, who are coequal, coexistent and co-eternal; namely, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:18-19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1-2, 18; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; 15:26; John 10:33).

In eternal relationship as to priority (not superiority) the Father is greater than all (John 14:28; 1 Corinthians 15:28; John 5:18).

The Son is the eternally begotten of the Father, and accepted earthly limitations for the purpose of incarnation, being true God and true man; conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the just for the unjust as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on High as our great High Priest, and He will return again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and justice.

The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, Executive of the Godhead on earth, the Comforter sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to indwell, to guide and to teach the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and the image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world (Romans 5:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work of the devil, and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (1 John 3:8).

4. Salvation

Salvation is made possible through the meritorious work of Jesus Christ on the cross and through Holy Spirit conviction. Godly sorrow works repentance and makes possible the experience of the new birth, and Christ formed within us is the gift of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Ephesians 2:8).

Man is a free moral agent and can, at any time after the new birth, experience turn away from God and die in a state of sin, with the consequences of hell to look forward to.

5. The Church

The true Church, built upon the Foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20), is the Body of our Lord (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27); Christ being the Head (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). Its earthly constituents are all true believers, born again of the Spirit (John 3:6) and of the Word (1 Peter 1:23), who are living an overcoming Christian life (Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:27).

To the Church, through its members, is delegated the various gifts and offices of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-28) which are necessary for the successful evangelization of the world and the perfecting of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-12).

This universal, invisible sanctified Church is the chaste virgin Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:26, 27; Revelation 21:9b, 27) and it is for this Bride for whom Jesus Christ returns, just prior to the Great Tribulation, to catch her away and take her to heaven (John 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

6. Ministry

God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls such as He desires to serve as evangelists, pastors and teachers, apostles, prophets and specifically endues the one called with the talents and gifts peculiar to that office or offices (Ephesians 4:11-13). Under no circumstances should anyone be ordained or set apart to any such office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

7. Water Baptism

Baptism in water is by immersion, and is a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19), and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

The following recommendation regarding the water baptism formula is adopted, to wit: "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

8. Baptism of the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11), is a Gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the new birth (John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 38-39; 10:44-48). The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied by the speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance as the initial physical sign and evidence (Acts 2:4).

9. Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (Hebrews 13:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

10. Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior; and being a memorial to His death and resurrection, is strictly limited to Christian believers (1 Corinthians 11:27). The time and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each congregation (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Only unfermented grape juice, the fruit of the vine, as recommended by our Lord (Matthew 26:29: Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18) shall be used in connection therewith.

11. Foot Washing

Foot washing is recognized among many believers as a Christian practice, and the time, manner and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each local congregation (John 13).

12. Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; James 5:14-15); it is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is available to all who truly believe.

13. The Resurrection of the Just

The Bible promises, "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner" (Acts 1:11). His coming is imminent; when He comes, "The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth, as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

14. Setting a Time for the Lord's Return

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for his appearing, and it is also unwise to teach, preach or publish visions of numbers and dates which would tend to fix the time of the second coming of the Lord (Mark 13:32, 33).

15. The Coming of the Lord

We believe the Bible presents the coming of Christ as personal, imminent, pre-tribulational, and pre-millennial. We further contend that this position alone admonishes watchfulness, incites holy living, prevents spiritual declension and provides maximum incentive and motive for urgency and zeal in evangelizing the unsaved. As demonic deception and satanic darkness deepens, we urge our ministers to maintain and proclaim this doctrinal viewpoint as the "blessed hope" of the Church. Furthermore, we recommend that should any of our preachers hold to the mid- or post-tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected.

16. Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of hearing the gospel or for repentance (Hebrews 9:27). The lake of fire is literal (Revelation 19:20). The terms "eternal" and "everlasting" used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned (Matthew 25:41-46) in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence, as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

17. Relation to War

Whereas, We believe that our government is ordained of God; and

Whereas, We are thankful to the government of the United States of America for the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our conscience; and

Whereas, there are those within our church organization who conscientiously object to the bearing of arms in the time of war; be it Resolved, that we as a church organization affirm their respective right to this conviction as they offer their respective services to our government in any way consistent with non-combative service.

18. Tithes

We recognize the Scriptural duty of all our people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes as unto the Lord (Hebrews 7:8).

Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord in general and not given to charity or used for other purposes (Malachi 3:7-11; Hebrews 7:2; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2).

19. Marriage

Marriage shall be between one man and one woman only (according to Genesis 2:20-24). Under no circumstances will the union of two individuals of the same sex be recognized or condoned. We believe homosexuality to be sin according to Leviticus 18:22 and Romans 1:22-23.

Constitution And Bylaws

of the

Southern Missouri District
Pentecostal Church Of God

Article One — Name and Corporate Structure

The name of this corporation shall be the Pentecostal Church of God, Southern Missouri District, Inc.

Whereas, the Pentecostal Church of God, Southern Missouri District, Inc. desires to have an opportunity to have its own 501(c)3 status; and

Whereas, such 501(c)3 status cannot be obtained without certain changes to the bylaws that are administrative in nature (administrative changes meaning non-religious and non-credentialing); and

Whereas, in the course of exploring the options to make the necessary changes to the bylaws that are administrative in nature only, it has been learned that the corporate entity was and is one established by circuit court order; and

Whereas, such corporate entities are generally no longer created or utilized due to the availability of having a not-for-profit corporation through the Missouri Secretary of State's office; and

Whereas, all changes in the customary not-for-profit corporation must still be voted upon, but are easy and cheap to implement, through changes registered in the Secretary of State's office, versus filling a court case and public notice in a circuit court created corporation.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS THE INSTRUCTION OF THE THIS BOARD that a resolution be set forth at the Annual Meeting authorizing a Petition in a Circuit Court for the change-over of a corporate structure from a Circuit Court Charter of a corporation to a secretary of State Charter of corporation.

Article Two — Purpose

The objects and purposes of this corporation shall be:

1. To preach the gospel and further the cause of the Kingdom of God in the United States of America and foreign lands.
2. To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression within the limits of its own statement of faith and doctrine among its own churches, ministers and members.
3. To ordain, license and otherwise qualify ministers to preach the gospel and provide credentials for the same.
4. To rent, to buy, acquire by gift, as well as to own, operate and use, lease, sub-rent or otherwise convey or dispose of either real, personal or mixed property, as shall be necessary for the operation for the carrying on of its business.
5. Further, to have the right and authority to sign mortgages or deeds of trust to secure payment of the purchase price, or borrow money for the purpose of building or establishing and maintaining buildings for the corporation's use, and to do this either directly or through trustees.

Article Three — Relationship

The Southern Missouri District is a part of, and in fellowship with, the Pentecostal Church of God, an incorporated body with headquarters at Joplin, Missouri, and shall be entitled to representation at the General Convention.

It is a part of the North Central Division of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Article Four — Form Of Government

The Pentecostal Church of God, the Southern Missouri District, now has, and shall always maintain, a representative and congregational form of government.

Section I

The officers of this District shall consist of:

1. District Bishop
2. District Presbyter
3. District Secretary/Treasurer
4. Sectional Presbyters
5. District Youth Ministries Director
6. District Missions Director
7. Women's Ministries Director
8. Discipleship Ministries Director
9. Senior Christian Fellowship Director
10. District Board
11. The Executive Committee of the Southern Missouri District shall consist of the District Bishop, District Presbyter and District Secretary/Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to carry on the work of the District Board when the District Board is not in session.

    All decisions by the Executive Committee will be presented to the District Board at the next scheduled meeting in writing. The Executive Committee will be amenable to the District Board and the District Convention.

Section II

Qualifications of Candidates

1. Any candidate for an office in the Southern Missouri District in the Pentecostal Church of God shall have a faithful attendance record to all district and sectional meetings the year preceding their election to said office.
2. Any officer holding a seat on the District Board shall have a faithful, monthly tithing record for the year preceding their election to said office.
3. When the office of any District official becomes vacant of the term of office, within sixty (60) days that office shall be filled through procedures set forth in the District Bylaws. Should there not be a bylaw covering the office, then the District Board shall either call a special convention for this matter only, or shall appoint someone qualified to fill the office until the next regularly scheduled convention.
4. Prior approval must be given by the District Board on all departmental committee nominations for District office.

Section III

Duties and Qualifications of Officers

1. **District Bishop**
   A. The District Bishop shall be a man not less than thirty five (35) years of age, an ordained minister who has the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with at least seven (7) years experience in the ministry and a one-year resident member in the District.
   B. He shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the District Convention. He shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years, incumbent elected for four (4) years.
   C. Should the Bishop resign, or the office otherwise become vacant, the District Presbyter shall assume the duties of the District Bishop until the next District meeting.

D. The Bishop shall serve as chairman of all District meetings.

E. He shall devote all of his time to the duties of his office.

F. Should the District Bishop resign (or another be elected at convention time), he shall be given thirty (30) days grace, or as designated by the convention in session.

G. The newly elected Bishop shall not be required to assume his duty for thirty (30) days. He shall, however, represent the District at the November General Board meeting.

H. He shall have thirty (30) days paid vacation each year.

I. The District Bishop shall call each Sectional Presbyter and the presbyter shall notify each of his sectional pastors in the event of a death of a District minister or companion.

J. The District Bishop and District Secretary/Treasurer shall be authorized to sign all legal documents in and on behalf of the Southern Missouri District.

2. **District Presbyter**

A. The qualifications of the District Presbyter shall be the same as that of the District Bishop.

B. He shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the District Convention. He shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years, incumbent elected for four (4) years. He shall take office immediately after District Convention.

3. **District Secretary/Treasurer**

A. The District Secretary/Treasurer shall be a man, an ordained minister, who has the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and one qualified to fill that office. He must have at least six (6) months resident membership in the District and four (4) years experience in the ministry.

B. He shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the District Convention. He shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years, incumbent elected for four (4) years. He shall represent the district at the General Board meetings.

C. He is authorized to sign all legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary, or may be directed by the District Board.

D. He shall be custodian of the seals and deeds, etc.

E. He may act as presbyter of the section in which he lives.

F. He shall present a written report of all assets, liabilities and disbursements in printed form to be handed out with the treasurer's report at convention.

G. He shall be given a thirty (30) day vacation per year with pay.

H. He shall be bonded for the security of our constituency.

I. The District Secretary/Treasurer shall be the grading officer for our Minister's Study Series.

4. **Sectional Presbyters**

A. The Sectional Presbyters shall be men at least twenty-five (25) years of age, ordained ministers with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with at least five (5) years experience in the ministry.

B. He must be an active pastor in the section in which he is elected to serve and a resident member of this district six (6) months.

C. Sectional Presbyters shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. His name shall be presented to the District Convention for their approval.

D. Should they move to some section other than the section in which they are elected to serve, their office immediately becomes vacant and that section shall elect another presbyter to fill out the unexpired term, with his name being approved by the District Board.

E. The term of office shall be for two (2) years.

F. They shall cooperate with and assist the District Bishop in the section they represent, and shall be responsible for its development.

G. He shall encourage each minister in his section to be faithful to the District with his/her tithe.

H. It is recommended that each Sectional Presbyter contact the pastors of his section concerning the missionaries that are itinerating through the District as to whether it is more convenient to have said missionary, or to receive an offering to be sent to the General office in said missionary's name.

I. It is also recommended that each presbyter notify the pastors of their obligations to the missionaries while they are at their church. Obligations meaning a provision of food and lodging.

J. The Sectional Presbyter shall have authority to schedule activities for his section.

K. The Sectional Presbyters shall by virtue of their office, also be the Sectional King's Men Fellowship President.

L. If there is no qualified ordained pastor in the section, or one willing to serve with common consent, then the District Bishop shall be authorized to allow another ordained minister living within the section to serve as Sectional Presbyter, if he otherwise would be qualified to serve, and is elected by the voting members of the section.

M. Whenever a sectional business meeting is called in a section concerning sectional business, the Sectional Presbyter of the section shall be invited and informed of the nature of the meeting.

N. Newly elected presbyters may be seated at the October District Board meeting if the outgoing presbyter does not attend.

5. **Director of Pastoral Care**

A. The Director of Pastoral Care is to be a person who has the baptism of the Holy Ghost and proven ability to fulfill the duties of this office.

B. The term of office is to be two (2) years.

C. He shall be seated on the District Board with full privileges and in the District Convention with full privileges.

D. The District Board shall appoint the Director of Pastoral Care.

6. **District Mission's Director**

A. The District Mission's Director shall be an ordained minister with at least five (5) years in the ministry, at least thirty (30) years of age, and at least two (2) years residence in the district. He shall be elected by the convention from a list of up to three (3) nominees presented to the convention from the District Board. The term of office shall be for two (2) years, and shall run concurrently with that of the District Bishop.

B. The District Mission's Director shall work in promotion of foreign missions by scheduling local and/or sectional missionary rallies with any of our foreign missionaries that may be itinerating in our district. He shall also promote the area of home missions.

C. The District Mission's Director shall work in assisting in the establishing of new works and assist in directing in the construction of pioneer churches. He shall work with the local pastor of said work and presbyter of that section. He shall assist in any way possible by having a working knowledge of construction and its related areas such as financing and building requirements.

D. The District Mission's Director and the District Board shall be jointly responsible for creating and promoting a workable program to finance this office, and shall promote a more systematic program of consistent support of foreign missions on a district-wide level.

E. While the office is primarily designed to help in the construction of new works and promotion of present foreign missions projects, the director should be available on a first request, first serve basis to lend his assistance of suggestions for any new construction or repair of present church properties, time permitting.

F. The finances or funds designated for home missions shall be used in the establishing or saving of new works and the expense of promotion and travel for said department. Any monies designated for home missions shall be used only in this manner, and any monies disbursed for new works shall first be set by the District Board to assist a new work. The department director shall be paid the current mileage rate for travel expenses incurred on behalf of this department, except in travel to and from meetings where a love offering is taken for his expenses.

G. He shall implement the Southern Missouri Home Mission's Manual.

H. All churches that are officially closed will revert to home mission's status for the purpose of receiving assistance should they decide to re-open at a later date.

I. Missionaries with credentials in the Southern Missouri District have priority and privilege to itinerate in the Southern Missouri District. Their itineration schedule should be completed at least thirty (30) days before the missionary is to begin.

J. All new Home Missions churches being in the Southern Missouri District shall be contacted by phone or visited each month for a progress report as well as encouragement for said new work. All even months to be contacted by the Mission's Director and all odd months to be contacted by the District Bishop.

7. **District Senior Christian Fellowship Director**

A. The office of District Senior Christian Fellowship Director shall be filled by District Board appointment. The term of office to be for two (2) years. The qualifications to be set by the District Board.

B. It is recommended that each local church form a Senior Christian Fellowship to be coordinated by the district director for fellowship between local churches throughout the district. Each local church may be assigned by the District Presbyter to set up their local chapter.

C. It is recommended that all local SCF groups meet monthly.

D. Statement of Purpose

1) To create a fellowship of senior Christians in the local church to interact with one another on their level.

2) To provide a setting whereby they may share life's experiences, gleaning encouragement from one another.

3) To involve the seniors in the present activity of the church and the community.

4) To make our seniors aware of the fact that they are loved and needed.

5) To organize programs whereby they may contribute their continuing resources for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

8. **District Kings Men Director**

A. The District Kings Men Director shall be a minister of the Southern Missouri District

B. The director will be appointed by the district board.

9. **District Board**

A. The District Board shall consist of the District Bishop, District Secretary/Treasurer, District Presbyter, Sectional Presbyters, District Mission's Director, District Director of Pastoral Care and the YM Director provided he is in accordance with qualifications of the Sectional Presbyter as stipulated in the District bylaws.

B. At least four (4) presbyters, the District Bishop and one (1) other member of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

C. The District Board shall select up to three (3) men qualified for the office of District Secretary/Treasurer to be voted on by the District Convention.

D. The District Board shall appoint presbyters in new or underdeveloped sections.

E. The District Board acts as trustees over all property belonging to the district.

F. The District Board will hold three (3) regular board meetings per year. The meetings are not to be during our District meetings, and they shall be for the purpose of transacting all District business usual and customary for said board, including business committed to said board by a District Convention and that of an emergency nature.

G. The District Board shall appoint one board member to assist the District Bishop and District Secretary/Treasurer in preparing our district bylaws for the printers. Said bylaws to be prepared and printed after each regular election year.

H. The District Board shall appoint a prayer chairman for prayer meetings during Bible conferences and conventions. This appointment to be made at convention. This prayer chairman is to call and announce all prayer meetings with the knowledge and approval of the District Bishop.

I. All committees for conventions shall be presented to the District Board for their approval, and a copy shall be given to all ministers.

J. Applicants shall be the first part of business at a board meeting.

K. The District Board shall be authorized to set the dates, including months and days of all District meetings.

10. **Finance Secretary**

A. The person filling this position shall not be required to be a minister. He or she shall be appointed by the District Executive Committee at will, and shall be paid a stipulated salary as determined by the District Board. He/she shall perform the usual routine business of the District office, which shall not include policy-making decisions. He or she shall work under the supervision of the District Bishop and the District Secretary/Treasurer, who shall have oversight of the financial record keeping of the district finances and shall be in the District office as they feel necessary.

B. The District Bishop, District Secretary/ Treasurer or finance secretary shall be authorized to sign checks.

C. The finance secretary will only sign checks as authorized. The clerical secretary shall be bonded for $25,000, the premium from which shall be paid from the district fund. He/she shall maintain regular office hours, the schedule for which shall be set by the District Executive Committee.

Section IV

Procedure of Elections

1. The first three ballots cast are nominating ballots. If no election, choose the two (2) highest names, requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority for election. This shall apply to all officials of the Southern Missouri District. No more than ten (10) ballots shall be cast on any group of nominees.

   During the electoral balloting should one of the two candidates withdraw his name, then the name receiving the next highest number of votes in the nominating ballot shall be placed on the electoral ballot in order to allow two candidates to remain on the electoral ballot.

   Because of the deep involvement and great contribution in the ministry of the minister's spouse and the need to continue to be involved in our district even after the minister is deceased, the spouse of a deceased minister shall be allowed to continue participating in our District program with the minister's spouse status until he/she should remarry or wish to relinquish that status, as long as he/she continues to hold membership in good standing in one of our local churches, except for extenuating circumstances which would be reviewed by the District Board

   The officer in charge of any business meeting that is electoral shall seek to introduce all who are eligible and qualified for the office.

2. **Sectional Elections**
   A. Qualified voters shall all be credentialed ministers in good standing and spouses; one (1) delegate from each church in the section.

3. **District Elections**
   A. Those eligible to vote shall all be ordained, licensed and exhorter ministers and their spouses who are in good standing with the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God, and have a current fellowship card. In order to be eligible to vote at District Convention, all ministers must be paid up-to-date with credentials and tithes the month prior to convention. No credential or tithe payments will be accepted during convention.

   B. Each chartered church participating in the First Fruits program may elect or duly appoint from its membership two (2) delegates per fifty (50), or a fraction thereof, in average Sunday morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Local Church Report. Delegates must be members of the local church and at least eighteen (18) years of age.

   C. Segregation shall be left to the discretion of the chair.

   D. Respective officers shall chair their portion of convention if they so desire.

Article Five

Section 1

Ministerial Relations

1. Our ministers are privileged to use the services of other ministers as evangelists only, provided their faith is in harmony with our doctrine. Our ministers are privileged to labor among other churches, providing that they do not lend themselves to a neighboring antagonistic church and thereby injure the Pentecostal Church of God already in that place.

2. No new works shall be started, or established works be taken into fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God, unless said church is at least two (2) traveling miles from a Pentecostal Church of God already in that city or town, and at least fifteen (15) miles in rural areas unless permission is given by the District Board and local pastor. Any minister failing to comply shall be called before a special board within fifteen (15) days, and the decision of the District Board shall be given to parties involved. The board's decision will be final. No minister shall lend themselves to any disgruntled element, incumbent pastor or one causing dissension and strife. Any minister doing such is liable to drastic discipline.
3. Ministers and workers must not interfere with those having charge of a church or mission. Ministers desiring to labor there must see or correspond with the pastor, and where there is no pastor, must address one of the deacons.
4. Credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God do not give free access to the pulpits of our churches unless the pastor in charge (or where there is no pastor, the deacons) invites them.
5. All ministers shall place and keep their membership in a church pastored by a Pentecostal Church of God minister in good standing, unless there is no Pentecostal Church of God church in close proximity or the minister is serving in a paid staff position at a non-Pentecostal Church of God church.
6. All ministers affiliated with this district shall use every means possible to affiliate their church and congregation as soon as convenient.
7. Any local minister or former pastor of a local church will not be permitted to pastor any church in a radius of fifteen (15) miles of where his local church is situated for a period of five (5) years unless permission is given by the District Board together with the local pastor.
8. Be it recommended that no ordained minister, with the exception of a pastor, associate/assistant, youth pastor or other pastoral position created by the local church, shall be permitted to sit on any governing board of a local church.
9. It shall be considered a breach against the fellowship of any local church for any of its members to hold services of any kind in their homes or elsewhere, unless sanctioned by their pastor, or in the absence of the pastor, the Board of Deacons. Neither shall they invite any other ministers to do so.
10. Should any difference arise between the pastor and any member or members, such shall be settled privately, as far as possible. If after honest effort has been made this cannot be done then let the matter be brought before the local church board. Only as a last resort let the board bring the matter before the church. However, if the charges are against the pastor, and serious, then the disagreeing parties shall file charges with the District Bishop, under Article V, Section III.
11. The Southern Missouri District office shall put together an information packet to be given to all new ministers and pastors of the District explaining the ministries of the District, and requirements of said ministries and churches. This would help communicate the benefits the District has to offer.
12. No minister holding credentials with the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God shall be allowed to perform any marriages between persons of the same sex.

Section II

License and Ordination

1. All ministers desiring license shall come well recommended. Those desiring ordination shall have at least two (2) years active ministry as a licentiate and one (1) full year of full-time ministry; if working on a secular job, must have at least two (2) year's experience in an acceptable ministry.
2. Every minister coming for ordination, license or from some other Pentecostal organization, for acceptance of former ordination, said minister shall have the recommendation of one (1) member of the District Board with the District Bishop, and shall declare his or her belief in our doctrine as set forth in the District and General Constitution and Bylaws, and such person shall promise to preach and teach this doctrine and not any doctrine that does not conform to this statement. This rule shall also apply to all ministers already holding credentials with us. No minister shall be elected to office whose known doctrine or belief is contrary to this doctrinal statement of the Pentecostal Church of God.
3. Any minister applying for fellowship must have a tithing record.
4. Any minister applying for fellowship shall be recommended by the presbyter of the section in which he lives and the District Bishop.
5. Any minister coming into the District from another district shall, upon his or her arrival, notify the District Bishop or District Secretary/Treasurer.

6. All licensed or ordained ministers who are not pastors of churches in the Southern Missouri District must be active in the five-fold minister through their local church and must send an annual report to the district office at the end of the year to receive their new ministerial card. All retired ministers who are not active may still retain their ministerial credentials, but all non-retired ministers who are not active may have their license suspended or dropped.
7. If any of our ministers, ordained, licensed or exhorter, make application for credentials to preach the gospel in any other religious organization without withdrawing as a minister of the Pentecostal Church of God, Southern Missouri District, they shall be automatically dropped from our ministerial list.
8. Before an applicant can be considered for exhorter credentials, he or she shall first be required to satisfy all requirements established by the General Bylaws.
9. All Minister's Study Series and all papers required for advancement shall be in the district office at least ninety (90) days before District Board meeting.
10. Any minister having or planning a marital status change shall meet the District Board at their next meeting, with the exception of a deceased spouse.
11. All exhorters must advance to license status within one year of taking a pastorate or evangelizing full-time.
12. A minister without an established record must be in the District for at least three (3) months and have a membership with one of our local churches, before they can meet the District Board for credentials.
13. All ministers and their spouses and those seeking credentials shall study and abide by the following Scriptures concerning dress code and conduct.
    - ✓ 1 Corinthians 11:1-16
    - ✓ 1 Timothy 2:8-10
    - ✓ 1 Timothy 3:1-11
    - ✓ 1 Peter 3:1-8

Section III

Discipline

1. All charges against a minister shall be in writing, with the signatures of at least two (2) accusers, in triplicate; one (1) copy to be filed with the District Bishop, one (1) with the accuser and one (1) to be sent by the District Bishop to the defendant. The District Bishop shall appoint a suitable place and convenient time, not less than ten (10) days in advance of the hearing of the charges.
2. No questions can be asked nor can any evidence be submitted unless the question or evidence has a direct bearing on the charges already filed. It is the duty of the chairman to enforce this procedure.
3. The court of inquiry shall consist of the District Bishop and the District Presbyter, together with any District or General officer present. Should either party be dissatisfied with the decision rendered, they may appeal to the next District Convention, and there take the matter before the entire District Board present whose decision is final except in the case of ordained ministers, who may appeal to the General Board, whose decision is final. The defendant shall be considered innocent until proven guilty.
4. If the defendant confesses and truly repents and shows a contrite heart, recommendation is made for leniency and, if possible, full restoration after a suitable time of probation.
5. If the charges are against the District Bishop, the procedure shall be the same, except the District Presbyter shall act as chairman.
6. If the charges are proven true, and of sufficient serious nature, the defendant's name may be removed from the ministerial list. The defendant shall have the right to appeal to the General Board, whose decision is final.
7. If the defendant is innocent, and the charges are proven false, the accusers shall be deemed guilty of malicious slander, trouble making and causing division, and shall automatically be dropped from fellowship, but if the accuser repents and acknowledges his guilt, his or her reinstatement shall be left to the decision of the District Board.
8. Any minister or ministers circulating a petition or doing anything to create dissension shall be called to meet the District Board. If proven guilty, they shall be dealt with as the Board sees fit.
9. Anyone who has once been tried and proven innocent, or who has repented and made restitution, shall not be tried the second time on the same charges. Any person or persons causing dissension or division by referring to the former charges, either by mouth or by writing, shall be liable to discipline, drastic if necessary. Where there is no tale-bearer strife ceases (Proverbs 26:20).

10. The District Bishop of the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God shall at all times have authority to investigate any minister holding credentials with said District. The District Bishop shall first consult with the minister in question. Should the District Bishop deem it necessary, he shall bring his investigative work before the District Board for action concerning the same.

Section IV
Code of Ethics

Whereas the ministry is the highest calling that any man can attain in life, and that his life is to be the example to all men, the following code of ethics shall be adopted as a guideline for Southern Missouri District ministers and their spouses.

1. All ministers shall cooperate with fellow ministers and leaders both of the District and General Office.
2. No minister shall be allowed to go to places of immoral entertainment and exhibition not edifying to the Kingdom of God.
3. They shall refrain from anything pertaining to witchcraft, astrology and the occult.
4. They shall keep themselves from the types of music, which suggest behavior not conducive to wholesome Christianity.
5. They must be clothed with apparel neither suggestive nor provocative, but which attracts others to our Lord rather than to our person.

Article Six

Section I
Ministerial Credentials and Insurance

1. Each credentialed minister shall remit the monthly credential fee assessed by the General Bylaws.
2. Where both husband and wife are ministers, either ordained or licensed, or licensed to exhort, the following option is available: One minister may pay $30.00 monthly, which is the usual application or renewal fee for a married minister with dependents, and the other may pay half of the regular rate..
3. The following special provisions are hereby set forth:
    A. When a minister reaches the age of seventy (70) and has carried ordination with the Pentecostal Church of God for twenty (20) years, or more, his credential fees, credential insurance and The Pentecostal Messenger subscription will be granted, courtesy of the General Office, for life, as long as said minister remains in good standing with his District.
    B. If the minister has a religious conviction against any form of life insurance and is not presently covered with any life insurance, said minister, upon application to the General Office, may be excused from the portion of the renewal fee credited to the insurance program.
    C. There may be conditions in the extreme, where a minister would be subjected to difficult, if not unbearable, results if forced to take the insurance coverage—such as the loss of employment of long standing —in which case, said minister should make contact with the General Office. If the situation merits consideration, special arrangements may be made.
4. To assist the General Office and the District office in the bookkeeping procedures necessitated by such an extensive program, each minister is encouraged, when possible, to pay his respective fees in one annual sum, or in semi-annual or quarterly payments. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.
5. If said fees are not paid for a period of ninety (90) days, at the discretion of the minister’s District Board, the ministerial credentials may be voided, upon written notice.

Article Seven

Section I
Finance - Tithes

1. All ordained, licensed or exhorter ministers shall pay their ministerial tithes to the district storehouse through the District Office of the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God by the last day of the month. The fiscal year shall run from July 1 to June 30.

2. The District Bishop will receive fifty percent (50%) of the tithes received through the District office for his support, and $125.00 per month toward his monthly utility bill.

   The District Board shall designate a percentage of the District Bishop's salary toward a housing allowance in accord with current IRS guidelines and shall work in consultation with the District Bishop to set a realistic monthly travel expense. The full amount of salary shall be tithed upon.

   The newly-elected District Bishop's salaried time will begin thirty (30) days after the first of the following month after his election to office.

3. The District Secretary/Treasurer shall receive $300.00 per month salary.
4. The District Presbyter shall be given $100.00 per month for expenses.
5. All ministers shall pay 20% of his or her working tithe to the district office. The remaining 80% of his or her working tithe to be given to the local church that the minister attends. This increase in revenue to the district will be redirected to meet the monthly district budget with the first $15.00 of each minister's working tithe directed to the salary of the District Bishop and the District Youth Director.
6. Each minister who is not a member of one our local churches or a church pastored by one of our ministers, shall tithe to the District office or provide written receipt from the local non-Pentecostal Church of God church with his monthly report to the district office.
7. Should any minister be as much as two (2) months behind with his/her tithes on December 31, he/she will not be renewed until he/she meets the District Board, or until he/she is paid up in full to date.
8. The sectional presbyter will not be allowed to place any minister in a church unless that minister is paid up to date and has a faithful six month tithing record at the District office.
9. For any minister to be in good standing with the District, he/she must not only have a clear financial record with the district office, but also attend and support one of our churches when at all possible.
10. A letter shall be sent for two (2) month delinquencies in tithe and/or three (3) month delinquencies in credential payments. If no acceptable response is received within thirty (30) days, a letter shall be sent having him/her to meet the District Board because his/her credentials are in jeopardy. The action to be noted on his/her tithing record.
11. Should any minister fail to pay tithes, the District Secretary/Treasurer is to notify him/her of his/her delinquency, and he/she will be requested to show just cause for his/her failure to comply.
12. If proper cause cannot be shown, he/she must meet the District Board of the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God before his/her papers will be renewed.
13. Each minister of the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God will fill out a report each month to be sent to the above stated district office, and at the end of the fiscal year a yearly report.
14. Before any local minister is to receive a renewal of credentials, he/she is required to fill out a form stating that he/she has been faithful in his/her tithe and support to his/her local church, and that this form be signed by the pastor. The pastor is to mail the report to the District office.
15. When an individual has missed paying tithes for one (1) month, or is late, two (2) months it shall be stated on the following report, providing him/her are both paid.
16. Be it recommended, that the Southern Missouri District set aside 5% of the District Tithe Fund (excluding the salaries of the District Bishop and District Secretary/ Treasurer) to be put in a savings account for the purpose of providing a Disability Fund for pastors and full-time evangelists of the District. The Executive Board is to have the freedom to set the amount per month, and the number of months to be determined by the District Board. The amount to be used for this purpose shall not exceed the funds set aside by this provision. The funds are to be disbursed by the Executive Committee of the District.
17. The District tithe shall be divided as follows: 50% to the District Bishop; 10% to the District YM Director; 5% to the disability fund for pastors and full time evangelists of the District; the remaining 35% to go to the support of the District office.

Section II

District Finance

1. No personal offerings are to be granted by the District Board without consent of the District, except for a guest speaker.

2. The District officers' mileage and actual expense shall be paid for District Board Meetings and for authorized business. If the District Bishop or one designated by him (a District Board member or District department head), request a minister to go and fill in at a church, he shall be given mileage if no remuneration is given.

3. When the District YM Director's income is less than $1000.00 in one (1) month, his income is to be made up to $1000.00 from the District treasury.

4. An amount of $300.00 per month from the District Fund is to be given to the District YM Director for travel expense.

5. An offering of $50.00 is to be given to the host church for expenses accumulated during our District Convention.

6. The financial auditing procedures shall be under the direction of the District Bishop with the District Board.

7. Because of the rising medical and hospital costs, and the fact that the District YM Director should have a major medical plan and has no means to secure such a plan, a major medical plan is to be obtained and the financing shall come from both the District fund and the YM fund, one-half (1/2) from each. This is to include the District Bishop, and the amount for the District Bishop shall come from the District fund.

   The District Secretary/Treasurer, in consultation with the District Bishop and District YM Director, will be responsible for obtaining said insurance.

8. The District shall send in $25.00 per church per year for Messenger College as requested by the General Convention. The remainder monies above this amount coming through our five (5%) income for Messenger College shall go into the Campground fund.

9. Be it recommended that any money received from pledges be placed only on that project unless permission is granted from the donor for alternative use.

10. Property owned, paid for or partly paid for by, or given to, the Pentecostal Church of God, Southern Missouri District, Inc., may be deeded to the local church (or its trustees), provided the following reversionary clause is a part of the deed:

    In the event of (1) an attempted conveyance of the Real Estate, (2) Grantee's disaffiliation with the Pentecostal Church of God, or (3) the dissolution of Grantee, the Real Estate will revert to the Grantor. Grantee agrees to execute, acknowledge and deliver any such instruments of transfer as may reasonably be required to carry out the intent and purposes hereof. It is a material inducement to the execution of this deed that the reversion is a forfeiture without consideration and without any equity or similar retained interest of Grantee. For purposes of the foregoing reversionary clause, the following definitions shall apply:

    A. "Attempted conveyance" includes, but is not limited to a conveyance of an interest in the Real Estate, or an attempted conveyance of an interest in the Real Estate, by any of the following without the prior approval of Grantor:
       1) A deed or other instrument of conveyance of fee title to the Real Estate;
       2) A lease of the Real Estate whose term, oral or written, for any term;
       3) An installment contract for the sale of the Real Estate;
       4) A mortgage, security agreement, pledge, lien or other instrument given by Grantee on the Real Estate to secure repayment of an indebtedness;
       5) A lease of any duration that includes an option to purchase the Real Estate; or
       6) Entering into an agreement for the conveyance, as defined above, of the Real Estate without the obligation to convey being conditioned upon the prior approval of Grantor.

       The term does not include a conveyance of an interest in the Real Estate by any of the following: a deed or trust document that, without additional consideration, confirms, corrects, modifies or supplements a deed or trust document that was previously recorded; or a conveyance occurring as a result of the foreclosure of a mortgage, security agreement, pledge, lien or other instrument given by Grantee on the Real Estate to secure repayment of an indebtedness to which the reversionary interest of Grantor is subordinate.

    B. "Disaffiliation" means:
       1) Voluntary surrender of Grantee's charter issued through Grantor;
       2) Any other act by Grantee that fails to comply with the tenets set forth rules by Grantor, particularly in such portions of the Grantor's Constitution and Bylaws as can be applied by neutral principles of law without resolution of any doctrinal question; provided, that Grantee shall be given written notice and reasonable opportunity to cure such act within sixty (60) days, which is not remedied following Grantee's receipt of written notice from Grantor specifying any such failure.

    C. "Dissolution" means:
       1) Cessation of regularly scheduled public worship for a period of four (4) consecutive weeks without the prior approval of Grantor;
       2) Filing of articles of dissolution with the office of the Secretary of State; or

3) Entry by a court of competent jurisdiction of an order of judicial dissolution.

The term does not include administrative dissolution unless the dissolution results from the expiration of a period of duration stated in Grantee's articles of incorporation.

The undersigned persons executing this corporate warranty deed on behalf of Grantor represent and certify that they are duly authorized to act for Grantor and have been fully empowered, by proper resolution of the Board of Directors of Grantor, to execute and deliver this corporate warranty deed; that Grantor has full corporate capacity to convey the Real Estate; and that all necessary corporate action for the making of such conveyance has been taken and done.

Section III
District Scholarship Fund

1. We shall establish a District Scholarship fund to be funded in the following manner:
   A. A yearly designated Sunday night offering will be received from each church.
   B. A Scholarship Club will be established whereby members of our churches can donate directly to the fund.

Section IV
Sectional Finance

1. All sectional fellowship meeting offerings are to be disbursed in the following manner: fifty percent (50%) to go in the sectional building fund and fitly percent (50%) to go to the Sectional Presbyter, except when the District Bishop is present; at which time the offering shall go for district promotion. The sectional building fund money shall be disbursed by the Sectional Presbyter, Sectional Secretary-Treasurer, with the approval of the District Bishop.
2. Each section shall be self-supporting in regards to expenses for the section. Each section shall develop its own financial system.

Section V
Church Finance

1. Money taken from the District Fund spent in the saving of established works, the same shall be made in the form of a loan to said church, and said loan shall be repaid by the church receiving same as soon as possible, and said money shall be returned to the District Fund.
2. Funds accruing to the pastor of each church of the district for his or her support, an amount not less than the actual anticipated expenditures shall be designated as housing allowance, parsonage furniture and furnishing and or parsonage utilities.
3. In order not to obligate the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God to an indebtedness without their knowledge, no minister and/or local church shall make any notes, or material liens in excess of $1,000.00 which binds or obligates the Southern Missouri District or one of its churches for payment without the approval of the District Board, and in case of emergency the Executive Committee shall be granted this power.
4. The church assistance report shall be omitted from our District report at convention, except those churches assisted in the past year, and these records shall be kept in the churches' file.

Article Eight — District Meetings

Section 1
District Conventions

1. All District Conventions shall be held in a centrally located place every two years. The District Board will make every effort to secure a church facility that will accommodate the District Convention and that church will be paid a comparable fee to that paid for a public facility.
2. To be eligible to register and vote at District Convention, any minister must be paid up to date at convention with his/her credentials and tithes.
3. A church registration fee shall be established for the District Convention. This fee shall replace the personal registration fee now in existence.

PURPOSE: The purpose is to eliminate all District personality offerings, which will conserve time and eliminate many of the offerings now taken. This also will cover the District Convention Budget. The following is the proposed church registration fee:

50 and under.....$20.00
51 to75 .....$30.00
76 to 100 .....$50.00
101 and over.....$75.00

4. Every department of the Southern Missouri District will be given time for a presentation during the October District Convention.

5. All resolutions to be considered during District Convention must be postmarked by September 1st and sent to the District office. All resolutions must be submitted in writing and signed by the author.

6. In order that convention business may be handled efficiently, and that important issues may be given plenty of prayerful thought and consideration; all resolutions for the District Convention recommended by the District Board shall be published

Section II

Standing Rules of Order

This Convention shall be subject to parliamentary laws where it does not conflict with our own bylaws.

In order to be eligible to vote at District Convention, all ministers must be paid up-to-date with credentials and tithes the month prior to Convention. No credential or tithe payments will be accepted during Convention.

Those eligible to vote shall be all ordained, licensed, and exhorter ministers and their spouses who are in good standing with the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God, and have a current fellowship card.

Each chartered church participating in the First Fruit program may elect or duly appoint from its membership two (2) delegates per fifty (50), or fraction thereof in average Sunday morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Local Church Report. Delegates must be members of the local church and at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Because of the deep involvement and great contributions in the ministry of the minister's spouse, and the need to continue to be involved in our District even after the minister's decease, the spouse of a deceased minister shall be allowed to continue participating in our District program with the minister's spouse status until he/she should remarry or wish to relinquish that status, as long as he/she continues to hold membership in good standing in one of our local churches, except for extenuating circumstances which would be reviewed by the District Board.

Procedure of Election - The first three (3) ballots cast are nominating ballots. If no election, choose the two (2) highest names, requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority for election. This shall apply to all officials of the Southern Missouri District. No more than ten (10) ballots shall be cast on any group of nominees.

During the electoral balloting, should one of the two candidates withdraw his/her name, the name receiving the next highest number of votes in the nominating ballot shall be placed on the electoral ballot in order to allow two candidates to remain on the electoral ballot.

The officer in charge of any business meeting that is electoral, shall seek to introduce all who are eligible and qualified for the office.

All resolutions presented to the convention must first be processed by the Resolutions Committee.

All resolutions shall be presented by a motion made and seconded by those eligible to vote. No discussion can properly be had until a motion is made to accept, seconded, and stated by the chair.

Anyone desiring to speak on any subject shall rise to his feet and address the chair, confine their remarks to the question under discussion, and avoid all unkind and disrespectful language.

Any speaker out of order shall be called by the chair, and must either take his seat or conform to the regulations of the body.

Any speaker shall have the privilege of the floor three (3) times on any one (1) subject; five (5) minutes the first time; three (3) minutes the second time; and two (2) minutes the third time. A timekeeper shall be appointed by the chair.

Call for the question cannot deprive a member of their right to speak, either when he has the floor or when rising to speak. It will not be considered courteous to call for a question when a member has the floor.

A resolution cannot be withdrawn after it has been discussed, except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the house.

After a resolution has been discussed for thirty (30) minutes, a vote must be taken.

Only one (1) question shall be before the house at any time.

All elections shall be by closed ballot.

Segregation shall be left to the discretion of the chair.

Respective officers shall chair their portion of convention if they so desire.

Section III
Order of Business

Report of Registration Committee
Report of Rules of Order Committee
Report of District Women's Ministries Director
Report of District Youth Ministries' Director
Unfinished YM Business
Report of District Bishop
Report of District Presbyter
Report of King's Men Fellowship Director
Report of Auditor (District Finances)
Report of District Secretary-Treasurer
Report of District Mission's Director
Report of Sectional Presbyters
Report of District Discipleship Ministries Director
Report of Resolution's Committee
Election of Officers
Ratify Sectional Presbyters
Unfinished Business
Adjournment

Section IV
District Fellowship

1. To continue a means of fellowship and become a catalyst for spiritual renewal, the District Board will establish a District calendar with at least three District meetings per year.
2. All pastors and ministers shall be required to attend at least one District meeting per year unless just cause can be given. Without just cause, the pastor or minister shall be contacted to meet the District Board and may be dropped from the ministerial list.

Section V
Accommodations

1. The host pastor of any District meeting shall send to the District office a list of motels and prices so that this list might be sent the month before such meeting.

Article Nine — Local Churches

Section I

1. Each local church shall elect its own pastor and officers. When a church's membership does not have at least ten (10) active members, then that church shall be designated a "dependent church". Further, should there be a vacancy in the pastorate of said church, it shall be filled by the District Bishop's appointment for one (1) year, should the need be evident. At the end of this term, if the active membership has exceeded the requirements, then the church shall no longer be designated as a "dependent church," and they may elect their own pastor according to District Bylaws.
2. Each church may have its own bylaws, but these shall in no wise be contrary to, or interfere with, those of the District or General Bylaws.
3. All Chartered Churches obligating the District financially or legally must provide proof of adequate coverage of insurance and a copy of the policy on a quarterly basis to the District Office.
4. All Chartered Churches shall be incorporated.
5. It is recommended to local churches that should the pastor be asked to resign, he be given thirty (30) days grace with pay, or should the pastor resign of his own accord, he give the church thirty (30) days notice. This ruling is subject to other satisfactory arrangements between the church and pastor.
6. All officers of any department of all our local churches must be members of that church, and shall be subject to the bylaws of that church and those of the District or General Bylaws. The pastor shall be chairman of the board and ex officio officer of every department.
7. Each church shall keep a true record of its members. All members shall be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age with an experience of salvation, and believers in the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. They shall abstain from drinking intoxicating liquors of any kind and the use of tobacco in any form. Voting privileges shall be confined to persons eighteen (18) years of age, and those who are working in harmony with the pastor and church.

   Enrolled members who, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the church for a period of six (6) consecutive weeks or more before the announcement of a business meeting, or who fail to pay their tithe to the place designated by the church; or who may be out of harmony with its teachings, shall be considered as not eligible for voting privileges. This shall apply to all local churches that do not have a church by-law covering this matter.

   In order to vote in local church business meetings, a member must have been in good standing for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election. Further, no one shall be permitted to join during the time of pastoral change that being from the time the pastor resigns until the time said pulpit is filled.
8. The pastor shall be in full fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God, with an up-to-date tithing record. He shall be elected the first time by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of active members present and in good standing, for a specified length of time set by the church.

   When a pastor is re-elected, only a majority vote is needed. He shall be re-elected for an indefinite period unless the church votes by a two-thirds (2/3) majority for a specified length of time set by the church.
9. The deacons shall be men who meet Scriptural requirements as far as possible. They shall be subject to the pastor and the church, and work in harmony. Any deacon acting contrary may be removed either by the church or the District Bishop, if proven guilty of not working in harmony or to the best interest of the church. They shall assist the pastor in such matters as communion and praying for the sick. They shall have no authority over the pastor and cannot discharge the pastor without the consent of the church by a vote in an announced business meeting.
10. Where no trustees are elected by the church, the deacons shall become the trustees of the local church. When the office of any trustee shall expire or become vacant from any legal cause, their office shall pass to their successor without formal transfer of any deeds or documents, whether or not the deeds or documents specify a successor.
11. The office of the secretary-treasurer may be combined or separated, and may be filled by any member qualified to serve. The secretary shall keep a record of all business meetings and preserve all books. They shall surrender all church property entrusted to them immediately upon leaving their office, or if asked to do so by either the church of the local pastor and church board together, or by the District Bishop.
12. The church treasurer shall accept and disburse all church money and such other duties as shall be designated in that office. When leaving the office for any purpose, they shall surrender all church property in their possession.

13. There should be a business meeting of the pastor and board at any time deemed necessary by the pastor for general discussion of the welfare of the church or any business pertaining to that board. All matters of major importance should be brought before the church. Parliamentary laws govern all business meetings after prayer.

14. Anyone working with minor children in any of our chartered churches will submit to a background check for a clearance. A confidential file will be kept in our church offices.

15. Any church which has been set in order with the Pentecostal Church of God, in the Southern Missouri District, and for any cause desires to withdraw their affiliation, must have a duly called business meeting with the District Bishop or Sectional Presbyter as chairman.

16. All churches are expected to support both foreign and home missionary programs and the churches should be open at all times for a service for any of our missionaries touring the District.

    All monthly missionary offerings received by the local churches shall be sent directly to the General Office, World Missions Department, P.0. Box 2248, Joplin, MO 64803.

17. Discipline - In all matters of difference between members, the Bible procedure shall be followed. First, let the disagreeing members make an honest effort to settle things privately. If unsuccessful, then let the matter be brought before the church board. Only as a last resort, let the board bring the matter before the church. Anyone bringing any matter before the church without the former requirements being met shall be liable to drastic discipline for being a trouble maker. No personal or slurring remarks shall be allowed at any business meeting. Anyone found guilty of gossiping or injuring another member or officer, may be brought before the board for discipline.

    Anyone showing a contrite or broken spirit, and who may ask forgiveness, the board is asked to be lenient with them. Those who have made restitution for any charges shall not be required to face the same charge again, and others referring to it may be disciplined for it.

    The District Bishop or presbyter in charge shall be empowered to accept the resignation of the pastor or any church officer without bringing it before the church, if in their estimation that will promote greater harmony of the church and save an unwholesome discussion among the members.

18. Each church that affiliates with the District shall file with the District Secretary a copy of the minutes of the business meeting, together with the name of the pastor elected and church officials, and a list of the charter members.

19. No church shall have board meetings without the Pastor present and in the event there is no current Pastor a District representative, selected by the District Bishop, shall be present.

20. Any pastor leaving a church for any reason shall refrain from interfering with the electoral process of his/ her replacement. They shall not make any recommendations, pro or con, to members of the church concerning persons trying out for the church. This shall apply to local ministers as well. Any minister found in violation of this by-law shall be subject to disciplinary action deemed necessary by the District Board.

21. It is recommended that each church's financial book-keeping system be observed by a qualified individual, authorized by the District Board. A report to be given for an improved bookkeeping system. This individual to be available for further observation if requested by the church or pastor.

22. Our "Church Assistance Program" shall be limited as follows:

    A. Church payments made for three (3) months only...

        1) The District pays all of payment first month.

        2) One-half (1/2) of payment second and third month.

        3) Beyond (3) months - District Board will re-evaluate situations and proceed with possible change in administration of said church.

23. No church is to be taken into fellowship without the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the pastors in the section involved. Said vote is understood to be two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots cast by said pastors in a meeting called for this purpose with proper notice given.

    Further, should the church not be accepted into fellowship at the sectional level, then that pastor or a duly appointed representative of that church (in the event there is no pastor), shall have the right to petition the District Board in consultation with the pastors of that section. The meeting of the section shall be chaired by the District Bishop.

24. When a church becomes vacant for any reason, the church and/or vacating pastor shall notify the Sectional Presbyter, who in turn shall notify the District Bishop. The District Bishop shall endeavor to include the Sectional Presbyter during the electoral process of said church, if possible.

25. We recommend that when a pastoral change takes place in a local church the District Bishop, along with the Sectional Presbyter or other District officer, shall conduct an overview of that local church's financial and membership records if they are in question, and the local church or local church board agrees.

26. A pastor, upon resigning, shall in cooperation with the church secretary, send an accurate record of all active church members to the District office.

27. All churches shall pay the credential fees for their pastors whenever financially able.

Section II

1. The District Convention recommends to each local church that their pastor is given a vacation each year with pay, the length to be worked out by the church and their pastor.

2. Our churches are not to use literature that conflicts with the Pentecostal Church of God doctrine.

3. When a pastor resigns, the church secretary is to send a complete financial report of the church, and also a financial report from each department of the church to the District Bishop.

Article Ten — Divorce and Remarriage

1. No divorced and remarried Christian can be granted credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God except in the following eases.

   A. The divorce and remarriage occurred prior to the first experience of salvation.

   B. The divorce was for the cause of fornication (Matthew 5:32)

   C. The applicant can provide to the District Board certified court manuscripts whereby it can be determined that every effort was made personally and legally to save the marriage, and that said divorce occurred against the will of the applicant (1 Corinthians 7:15). Only defendants/respondents should be considered under this provision and the charge against the applicant must not be a Scriptural charge.

2. The form, Marriage Questionnaire, has been adopted by the General Convention for use in connection with all applications for credentials where either the wife or the husband has been divorced.

3. Many families have been disrupted and children have been denied the comforts of their parents and their God-given privilege of a home, and as we deem it contrary to decency and the compassion of God, therefore, we do not approve the separation of families over the divorce question.

Article Eleven — Boundaries

Section I

Boundaries

1. The Southern Missouri District shall consist of the following: All of Missouri south of Highway 40, west to the eastern city limits of Kansas City.

Article Twelve — Credential Renewal

No person who surrenders credentials shall be restored unless said minister appears before the District Board and answers any questions pertaining to the case under consideration.

Article Thirteen — Campground

1. Concerning building code (refer to District office).

2. The District Board shall be authorized to investigate the possibilities of and implement, if feasible, the renting of our campground to other groups.

3. The Southern Missouri District PCG will not be responsible for any medical payments that exceed the amount of our insurance coverage for any accidents on our Campground.

4. In order to maintain our district campground with maintenance and insurance, churches with attendance of 1-50 pay $25.00 per month, churches with attendance of 51-75 pay $50.00 per month and churches with attendance of 76 and over pay $75.00 per month to the district campground fund.

Department Of
Youth Ministries

Southern Missouri District
Constitutional Agreements and Bylaws

Preamble

Whereas, it has pleased God to call through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in these last days, the youth of our land into His service, and to witness the same by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh, and...

Whereas, we, as ordained individual groups of Pentecostal young people, desire a more intimate fellowship and interest which organizing with other groups will supply, and desire the encouragement and blessing which is derived from association with other groups of Pentecostal young people,

Therefore, be it resolved that we, Pentecostal young people's groups of the Southern Missouri District, shall with mutual agreement, enter ourselves into a covenant of service for our Lord, and be governed by the following constitution and bylaws, thus forming the Youth Ministries of the Southern Missouri District, Pentecostal Church of God, Inc.

Article I --- Recognition

The Pentecostal Church of God Youth Ministries Department is the official young people's work, and shall be recognized by all the ministers, and also have the cooperation of same. It is a part of the Pentecostal Church of God, and shall function under the supervision of the General, District and local officials.

Article II — Name And Motto

1. This association shall be known as the Pentecostal Church of God Youth Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District, Pentecostal Church of God, Inc.
2. The motto of the YM shall be: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

Article III — Covenant

Whereas God is calling the youth of the land to a personal experience of salvation through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, and then baptizing them in the Holy Ghost; and, whereas He is filling their hearts with a passionate love for souls, and with a holy fire and zeal for service and sacrifice; therefore, we, the Pentecostal young people of the Pentecostal Church of God do hereby pledge ourselves to a complete commitment to our Lord in recognizing the gravity of our times; we hereby unite ourselves to do battle against Satan and his snares, and we will not be found in places of immoral entertainment and exhibition, not edifying to the Kingdom of God, knowing that Satan will do all he can to hinder us, we will keep ourselves free from all forms of gambling, from tobacco, from intoxicating beverages, drugs that are physically and mentally harmful to the body, and we will avoid malicious talk and/or vulgar communication, and we will keep ourselves from the influence and personal involvement in witchcraft, astrology and the occult, from types of music which suggest behavior not conducive to wholesome Christianity, and from involvement in impure and/or unnatural sex, and since our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost; we hereby pledge to clothe them with apparel which is neither suggestive nor provocative, but which attracts others to our Lord rather than to our person, and we do further agree to cooperate with our ministers and leaders, and with both our General and District officials for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel.

Article IV — Membership

1. Qualifications for membership of the local group shall be upon their confession of faith unto salvation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. Age limits for the YM shall be from thirteen (13) to thirty-five (35) years of age inclusive for senior YM, and ages six (6) to twelve (12) years of age for junior YM.
3. Membership of the Southern Missouri District YM shall consist of all local groups, which have accepted the constitution and bylaws and doctrinal statements of the Southern Missouri District YM and have been duly set in order.
4. Any local group desiring to become a member of the YM shall apply to District Youth Director for membership and shall be received in a public service by the District Youth Director, at which time a certificate of membership shall be presented to the group.
5. Changes of pastors do not affect the membership of any local group.

Article V — Officers

1. The officers of the Southern Missouri District YM shall be a District Youth Director.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Director, District Bishop and the District Secretary of the Southern Missouri District of the Pentecostal Church of God, Inc. Any business taken up by this committee which deals with a local section only shall include the Sectional Presbyter on the Executive Committee. A majority of the YM Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI — District Business And Elections

1. District legislative business and elections shall be held during regular District Convention business.
2. The term of office of the YM officers shall be for two (2) years.
   A. The District Board shall receive applications and shall submit up to three names for electoral consideration for the office of District YM at the October Convention. This by-law is effective immediately. The term of office is for two years. Should the incumbent District YM Director be inserted for a second term, the term of office shall be for four (4) years.
   B. The District YM Director shall spend full time on the field.
3. The nomination of District YM Director shall be by secret ballot, and shall follow parliamentary procedure.
4. Election shall be by secret ballot, a two-thirds (2/3) majority being necessary to elect.
5. Those eligible to vote during YM business shall be those eligible for District Convention business and one (1) delegate from each local group.
6. Inasmuch as convention dates have been changed, the new YM Director shall take office thirty (30) days after the election date.
7. Reports shall be made at the District business meeting (convention) by the YM Director of their work and finance.
8. The articles of this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of voters present at any annual business meeting.
9. Proposed resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Committee.

Article VII — Duties of District Officers

1. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the call of the Director to decide all matters of legislative importance, the decision to stand in force until ratified or rejected by the District Convention assembly.
2. Duties of District YM Director:
   A. The District YM Director shall have the responsibility of conducting all District rallies, sectional rallies and District business meetings of the YM.
   B. The Director shall use his or her influence in organizing and inviting new groups into the YM and encouraging all local groups.
   C. In the event of the absence of the Director from any of his or her duties, he or she shall be responsible for supplying another to take his/ her place.
   D. The District Director shall visit each local church, regardless of size, once a year if possible.
   E. The District YM Director is seated on the District Board as a full member of the District Board, provided he is to the age of twenty-one (21) or over, and in accordance with the qualifications of Sectional Presbyter as stipulated in the District Bylaws.
   F. The YM Director shall meet with the District Board at the beginning of each year to show his outlined program. If there are any changes during the year, he shall meet the Board for their approval.
   G. The District YM Director's spouse shall be a full member of the District YM Central Committee.

Article VIII — Activities And Meetings

1. The YMs may hold District rallies during the year, the time and place to be determined by the YM Executive Committee.
2. The District shall be divided into sections.
3. The District YM shall take up any other activities by a two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote of the members present at the bi-annual District Convention.
4. Where practical, there shall be a local junior work to be known as the junior YM for those too young for the senior YM.
5. Our District youth camps shall be scheduled by the Central Committee and be approved by the District Board.
6. When attending another church or a rally as a group at a distance, the group shall be properly chaperoned, that our good be not evil spoken of.

Article IX — District YM Finance

1. The YM supplies shall be bought and sold at a profit, the profit be placed in the District YM treasury.
2. The evening offerings at the rallies shall go for the support of the Director.
3. The YM by a majority vote may obligate itself for any special financial program.
4. Each church is encouraged to mail in at least fifteen dollars ($15.00) per month for the director's support.
5. The District YM Director's salary shall be based on money received in monthly YM rallies and pledges received during the month from YM groups.
6. The YM parsonage utilities shall be paid from the District YM funds.
7. All District telephone calls made by the District Director pertaining to YM business shall be paid from District YM funds.
8. The District YM Director shall receive $200.00 when attending Central Committee meetings. This is to be paid from District YM funds.
9. A junior YM leader is to be appointed by the YM Executive Committee, approved by the District Board, to promote inspiring a junior service by giving suggestions and ideas. This leader shall be responsible for junior activities at conventions and national and District rallies.
10. We are to have Junior Church at each District Convention, and these services are to be conducted at the same time as our business session.
11. The District Missions Director along with the District YM Director are to check maintenance needed on the YM parsonage semi-annually. A list shall be made of all repairs and presented to the District Board for approval. A work day shall be called to make said repairs. Cost of repairs will come from the YM and/or District fund.

Article X --- District Partnership

1. The Pentecostal Youth Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District shall be considered a branch of the Pentecostal Church of God, Southern Missouri District, Inc.
2. The YM shall support the activities and official publications of the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated).

Department Of

Women's Ministries

Southern Missouri District
Constitutional Agreements and Bylaws

Preamble

Inasmuch as a great need for an organized ladies work is evident, and as local groups feel it of great benefit to band themselves together with other local groups of our District in an organized manner,

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the local ladies' groups, enter ourselves into a covenant of service for the Master, and be governed by the following constitutional agreements and bylaws, thus creating the Department of Women's Ministries.

Article I — Name

The ministry shall be known as the Pentecostal Church of God Women's Ministries of the Southern Missouri District, Pentecostal Church of God, Inc.

Article II — Recognition

The Department of Women's Ministries is an official ladies work, and shall be recognized as such, and shall have the cooperation of all the ministers. It is a part of the Pentecostal Church of God, and shall function under General, District and local officials.

Article III — Covenant

The purpose of this ministry shall be to stimulate a missionary zeal and to up-build the church.

Realizing that Satan is ever trying to destroy the work of God, we do agree to have and to obey the following as our covenant of duty:

1. To visit homes is a missionary effort (win these to Christ and to the church).
2. To lend help to the needy wherever possible (meals, clothing, etc.).
3. To be kind and courteous under all circumstances.
4. We shall not gossip about nor criticize the pastor, officers or other members, neither anyone else, as this is of Satan and brings disastrous results.
5. We shall at all times work in full cooperation and harmony with our pastor.
6. We shall be faithful to our church and pastor by giving our attendance, prayerfulness, in payment of tithes and in giving contributions.
7. We shall in all matters of importance seek the council and advice of our pastor, and shall conduct ourselves accordingly.
8. We shall conduct ourselves in a Godly manner, dress in modesty as an example of a true Christian, and shall not partake of nor be seen in questionable places. We shall endeavor never to bring a reproach upon our church or the cause of Christ by our attitude or conduct.

Article IV — Membership

1. Membership of the Southern Missouri District Women's Ministries shall consist of all groups, which have accepted the constitutional agreements and bylaws and doctrinal statements of the Southern Missouri District Women's Ministries, and have been duly set in order.
2. Any local group desiring membership in the district Women's Ministries may apply for membership to the WM Director. These shall be received in a public service by the WM Director.
3. Membership of local groups shall consist of those in good standing with the local church.

Article V — Officers

1. **District**
   - A. The officers of the Southern Missouri District Women's Ministries shall consist of a WM Director, also a District Secretary, if desired.
   - B. The Executive Committee shall consist of the WM Director, the WM Secretary, the District Bishop and the District Secretary/Treasurer.
   - C. Officers must be baptized with the Holy Ghost to qualify for office.
   - D. Officers must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and in good standing with the Pentecostal Church of God.
2. **Section**

   Qualifications for WM Leader
   - A. Saved and baptized in the Holy Ghost.
   - B. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
   - C. Be modest in dress and in good standing with local church and/or section.
   - D. Be active in local WM group.
3. **Local**
   - A. The local WM officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and other officers the group deems necessary.
   - B. Qualifications:
     a. Baptized with the Holy Ghost.
     b. A member in good standing with the local church.

Article VI — Elections And Business

1. **District**
   - A. Elections of the District WM Director shall be held at the District Convention and must have the approval of the District Board before authentic.
   - B. The District WM Director shall nominate the WM Secretary; they shall be approved by the District Board and ratified by convention.
   - C. Term of office shall be for two (2) years to run concurrently with that of the Pentecostal Church of God.
   - D. Nominations shall be by secret ballot and a majority vote necessary to elect.
   - E. The voting constituency shall consist of the membership of local groups and all licensed and ordained ministers.
2. **Local**
   - A. The election of local officers shall be held when desired. It is suggested that elections be held annually.
   - B. The local members and officers, together with the pastor, shall make up the voting constituency.
   - C. The pastor shall be chairman of all business meetings and elections, and is privileged to attend any meeting of the WMs and has authority over all local officers.

Article VII — Finance

1. Each local group shall receive a free-will offering at each meeting, and shall render their service in various ways (with the pastor's permission) to raise finances for their activities. An accurate record of finance shall be kept by the local WM Secretary.

2. There shall be one (1) annual District WM rally in the Spring for the purpose of a Alabaster Box Pouring Out Service and presentation of awards.
3. Each WM group should tithe on all project incomes except designated projects such as missions, etc. The tithe to be for the support of the District WM Director. Said tithe should be sent to the Finance Secretary for recording and then the amount forwarded to the District WM Director.
4. The WM financial report shall be given during the District Convention business sessions.
5. The District WM Committee, consisting of the District WM Director, District WM Secretary and all sectional WM leaders present for the meeting, shall be authorized to set any honorariums pertaining to their department and coming out of their funds.

Department Of
King's Men Fellowship

Southern Missouri District
Constitutional Agreements and Bylaws

1. PURPOSE: One of the greatest powers in the church is a group of consecrated men who will put God first, others second, and themselves last. Realizing the need to activate and utilize this vast reservoir of spiritual power to its fullest measure to help make men aware of their divine appointment as spiritual leaders of their household, their church and their communities, we therefore establish a men's fellowship for the Pentecostal Church of God for the purpose of creating a stronger bond of fellowship among the men of our churches, promoting a stronger arm of evangelism in our churches and districts.
2. NAME: The name of the organization shall be the "King's Men Fellowship".
3. MOTTO: The motto shall be "Reaching men for the King".
4. SYMBOL: The symbol shall be hands holding a crown.
5. ORGANIZATION: Each local group is encouraged to form a King's Men Fellowship, and the District may organize these fellowships on a District-wide basis for the promotion of fellowship between churches of the District. The King's Men Fellowship will serve within the local church to help provide a strong arm of evangelism. Ministries of the King's Men Fellowship shall be voluntary, with each church unit selecting the areas of service they wish to fulfill. The national ministry, which may be shared by all King's Men members, is that of radio and television, and such other ministries as may be accepted by the local units.
6. The District Presbyter will serve as President of the District King's Men Fellowship.
7. The King's Men Fellowship shall have an annual District Rally for the purpose of spiritual growth, fellowship, and raising of finances for Home Missions/KMF. Each local group will be encouraged to bring an offering; awards will be presented.
8. The King's Men Fellowship shall have a yearly retreat for the purpose of fellowship. The District King's Men Fellowship Director shall be in charge of said activities.