

EDEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS



PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian Fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honoured according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility, and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we whose names appear on the Assembly roll under date adopted, do hereby recognise ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, New Zealand (Incorporated), and the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this Assembly shall be “EDEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD”

ARTICLE II - PREROGATIVES

c.1 : This Assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the Scriptures, “endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace ...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph. 4:3-13)

c.2 : In connection therewith it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustees and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III - AFFILIATION

While maintaining its right to conduct of its own affairs, this Assembly shall voluntarily enter into full co-operative fellowship with Assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Assemblies of God, New Zealand (Incorporated), and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Holding to the historic truths of the Christian faith, as specifically stated in the tenets of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand (Incorporated), the Assembly affirms its belief:

- (a) In the Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:15-16).
- (b) In one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, Mark 12:29).
- (c) In the Virgin Birth of Christ, His vicarious atoning death, bodily resurrection and ascension. (Isaiah 7:14, Romans 8:34, Acts 1:10).
- (d) In salvation by grace through the Blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:25, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:13-15).
- (e) In baptism in water by immersion for believers (Matthew 28:19) and the Lords Supper as commemorative of the sacrificial body and blood of Christ (1Corinthians 11:23-26).
- (f) In the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 15:8-9, 19:6).

- (g) In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit which enables a believer to live a holy life. (Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15,16).
- (h) In divine healing through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. (Isaiah 53:4, Matthew 8:16-17, James 5:13-14).
- (I) In the second coming of Jesus Christ. (Acts 24:15, Luke 14:14, Revelation 19:7-9).
- (J) In the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the earth. (Revelation 20:1-7).
- (k) In the resurrection of the dead and God's final judgement of all people, the just and the unjust, by which the just shall receive everlasting life and the unjust shall receive eternal damnation. (Daniel 12:2, Revelation 20:11-15, 1 Thessalonians 4:13- 17, Romans 14:10-11, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11, Acts 17:31).

ARTICLE V ORDINANCES

Sec. 1: Baptism in water: The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of the New Birth. (Romans 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Matt 3:8).

Sec. 2: The Lords Supper. The ordinance of the Lord's supper shall be observed on a regular basis preferably each Lord's day. (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP:

Sec.1 : Eligibility for membership: Membership of this Assembly shall be available to all those who, being sixteen years of age and over, give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who voluntarily subscribe to the Assembly's Tenets of Faith, who agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws and who have participated in the life of the Church prior to application.

Sec.2 : Legal Voting Membership. All who participate in the life of the Church, whose names appear on the present membership roll of the Assembly, together with those whose names shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the Assembly, provided they are sixteen years of age or over, that they regularly attend and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony and the tenets of faith.

Sec.3 : Disqualification :

Members who without good cause absent themselves from the regular services of the Assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, or who, whilst attending other church services freely, only very occasionally attend the regular services of the Assembly over such periods.

or

(b) Who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries;

or

Who shall be under charges for misconduct or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices.

or.

(d) Who shall cease to be an active witness for Christ.

or

Who cease to contribute of their means of support; may lose their membership and voting privileges until they are restored to Fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the Assembly through its elders.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

As a Church we want to **Worship** God, fulfil the **Works** He has called us to do and by all means **Win** the lost. To accomplish this the Church has to have a structure that will change as the Church grows. The idea is to appoint people by gift so that they use what God has gifted to the body to grow the body. Below is a diagram to help explain the structure of the Church.

Sec. 1: Spiritual Oversight:

The Assembly shall have a Spiritual Oversight comprising of the senior pastor, pastors and elders not exceeding twelve at one time, who will oversee the spiritual life of the Assembly and shall be entrusted with the following functions:

- (a) to initiate aims, goals, vision and direction for the Assembly.
- (b) to provide spiritual oversight and pastoral care for members and adherents.
- (c) to give expression to the evangelistic and missions policies of the Assembly.
- (d) to give expression to the policies of the Assembly in respect of Christian
- (e) to equip the members for the work of the ministry.

Sec. 2: Management Team

There shall be a Management Team made up of the Deacons, the Senior Pastor and representatives from the Spiritual Oversight, and any others that the Team may co-opt, of which there will not be less than three, or more than seven members to whom, shall be committed the management of the Assembly hereafter called The Management Team.

Sec. 3: Elders:

Elders shall be appointed by the Spiritual Oversight. The Elders shall hold office during the period of their resident membership, subject to annual review by the Spiritual Oversight, unless they resign their office, or are

disqualified under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Assembly. They are to function in pastoral care, visitation or teaching.

Sec. 4: Trustees:

Five trustees shall be elected for the holding of all Church Property. Their term of office shall be for a minimum period of three years each unless they resign their office, or are disqualified under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Assembly

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Sec. 1: Public Worship:

Meetings for public worship shall be held regularly as provided for under the direction of the Pastor, or the Spiritual Oversight or in their absence under the direction of the Management Team.

Sec. 2: Annual Business Meeting:

There shall be an annual business meeting of the Assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the reports of the Pastor, Treasurer and Departmental Leaders shall be read. This meeting shall be held after the 31st March, of each year, the time and place to be announced by the Pastor or the Secretary. Due notice is to be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of meeting.

Sec. 3: Special Business Meeting:

Special Business Meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the Assembly, and in agreement with the majority of the Management Team. A special business meeting may also be called by petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the active membership of the Assembly. The petition must be placed in the hands of the Secretary preparatory to consideration by

The Management Team. The special business meeting may then be called, due notice to be given on the two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

Sec. 4: Quorum:

(a) No record of any special or regular business meetings shall be made unless one-quarter or more members are present to constitute a quorum.

(b) A majority of the membership of any Board or Committee present at any time of their business meetings shall constitute a quorum except in respect of the Trust Board when three of the members present will constitute a quorum.

Sec. 5: The Management Team shall together with the Pastor meet as required (usually monthly) for the transaction of business of the Assembly.

Sec. 6: The Trustees:

The Trustees shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand, or upon request of the Pastor or Secretary of the Trust Board.

ARTICLE IX - DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The Assembly shall hereby provide for the establishment of departments to minister to specific groups or any other department or committee as the needs of the work may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and elders and in a functional relationship with The Management Team, and the Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE X - FINANCES

Funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided primarily by the voluntary contributions or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the Assembly. Offerings shall be accepted by the Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and The Management

Team, and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction. (Mal 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 11 Cor. 9:6-8)

ARTICLE XI - PROPERTY

All Real Estate property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name by the trustees and their successors in office. No property of the Assembly exceeding \$55,000 in value shall be sold or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a majority vote of the Trustees and The Management Team and confirmed by at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, or lease, that the same has been duly authorised by a vote of the Assembly. Such a certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended or changed by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the regular services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting, and that due notice has been posted in writing in the Church Bulletin at least two weeks before the proposed meeting.

BY - LAWS

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1: Standard of Membership.

The Scriptures show that the following standards are important in a believers life. We believe these standards shall be evident in increasing levels in the lives of members:

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth) : John 1:12-13; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25.
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life: Romans 6:4 Romans 8:1-4; and 13:13-14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1-2,15; 1 John 1:6-7.
- (c) To fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set out in the constitution and a willingness to be governed by the Church's By-Laws. 2 Tim 1:13, Heb 10:23
- (d) Willingness to tithe their income and contribute regularly to the support of the Church according to the Scriptures. Mal 3:8, Mat 23:23
- (e) Baptised in water and the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues. Mat 28:19,20, Acts 2:38
- (f) Actively attempting to win people to Christ. Luke 19:10, Prov 11:30
- (g) Faithfully attending meetings and seeing the support by attendance as a priority in God. (Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.)

Sec. 2: Voting Privilege:

All persons qualifying as members of the church according to Article VI, Sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution, and whose names appear on the Church Membership Roll, shall have the right to vote.

Sec. 3: Reception of Members:

Persons desiring to become members of the Church shall make the fact known to a Pastor or elder who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership and Article vi, Sections 1 and 2 of the constitution. The Pastor or elder shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Spiritual Oversight who, shall render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership

requirements shall be received into the church publicly at any service, and their names shall be recorded on the Church membership roll.

Sec. 4: Marriage:

Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorced for any cause except fornication and adultery. (Matt. 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he or she walks in the light of God's Word. (1 Cor. 7:15,27,28).

Sec. 5: Discipline:

Any member of the Church who shall fail in their membership obligations under any clause as described in Article VI, Section 3 of the local Constitution shall immediately be suspended from active voting membership, pending further and final consideration of their case with a view to restoration. (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:25).

(b) Continued disregard of the conditions of membership or unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this Church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be prayerfully administered according to the Scriptures. (Matt. 18:15-17, 35; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Thess. 3:11-15; Romans 14:1-13; Eph. 4:3,13).

(c) If a persons name is removed from the Membership Roll they shall be notified of the action of The Spiritual Oversight through the Pastor or Secretary. If appeal is made to The Spiritual Oversight for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the decision of the Spiritual Oversight by a unanimous vote shall be considered final.

Sec. 6: Revision of Membership Roll.

The Spiritual Oversight shall be authorised to revise the membership roll of the Church annually, or more frequently if necessary, and to remove from the

list of members all those who have gone to heaven, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the Fellowship.

Sec. 7: Members Transferring.

Members in good standing who may wish to sever their relationship with the Church, or who may desire to transfer to some other congregation, should apply to the Pastor or Secretary for a letter of introduction, which shall be granted on the approval of the Spiritual Oversight, the letter to be signed by the Pastor and Secretary of the Church.

Sec. 8: Members Moving or Withdrawing without Notice:

If a member relocates out of the area without making it known to the Pastor or the Spiritual Oversight, it shall be considered that they have terminated their membership with the church, and their name shall be removed from the membership roll.

Sec. 9: Representations:

Any member desiring a matter of importance to be considered by The Management Team or Spiritual Oversight should make representation in writing addressed to the Secretary.

ARTICLE II -

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF THE PASTOR, SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT AND CHURCH OFFICERS.

Sec. 1: The Pastor, Duties etc.

The Pastor shall be one in good standing with the General Council, Assemblies of God in New Zealand, and or the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the Pastor's home country; and shall be one whose life and conduct conform to the Scriptural and Assemblies of God standards for the ministry. (1 Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-7; 1 Peter 5:2-3).

The Pastor should be honoured in the sacred office as the spiritual Overseer of the Church and as the General Supervisor of all its activities. The Pastor

shall chair all business meetings of the church; of the Management Team and Property Trust, except in the circumstances described under Article IV, he shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

The qualifications required of the Pastor (as outlined in Paragraph 1 above) shall also appertain to the Assistant Pastors.

No person shall be invited to preach or speak in the church, and no film or dramatic production shall be shown in connection with any department of the church without the Pastors approval, a preview of any film being arranged at the Pastor's request if so desired. In addition no literature or printed matter shall be distributed on the premises or in House Churches by any person without the Pastor's authority. This section also applies in respect of other Churches or Organisations desiring the use of our premises, the object being to ensure that a proper standard is maintained consistent with the Church vision.

Sec. 2: Spiritual Oversight.

The Spiritual Oversight shall be made up of the Senior Pastor, pastors and elders. They shall assist and be under the direction of the Pastor in the spiritual work and oversight of the Church. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of discipline.

Sec. 3: The Management Team, Duties etc:

The Management Team Members will serve the Church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly in the administration of its ordinances and finances.

Those present at any meetings of the Management Team shall constitute a quorum, provided all members have been notified to be present. In the event the Assembly is temporarily without a Pastor, or the Pastor is unable to be present, The Management Team shall be empowered to request a Chairman from the Spiritual Oversight in order to transact business for the Assembly.

No person shall be eligible for the office of Deacon unless filled with the Holy Spirit as taught by the Church in accordance with the book of Acts 2:4.

Deacons shall be persons of good report whose lives and conduct conform to the Scriptures. (Acts 6:1-3; 1 Tim 3:8-13).

Sec. 4: The Trustees, Duties etc..

The Trustees shall be the custodians of all the real property of the Assembly. They shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand, upon the request of the Pastor or the Secretary of the Trust Board, three of the Trust Board members constituting a quorum.

The Trustees shall be persons of mature Christian faith, of good report, who are capable of efficiently discharging the duties pertaining to the office. No Chairman of the Trust Board shall have a casting vote.

Sec. 5: The Secretary, Duties Etc.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Management Team and of the annual and special business meetings of the Assembly. The Secretary shall hold and maintain a record of the membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of their duties. and shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the Church Seal.

The Secretary shall be one who has clerical ability, faithfulness of character and who possesses a spirit of hearty co-operation.

Sec. 6: The Treasurer, Duties etc.

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly, and shall deposit all funds in the name of the Assembly and shall disburse the funds by cheque as authorised by the Pastor and The Management Team. All cheques shall be signed by any two officers of the Church authorised by the Management Team.

The Treasurer shall keep an itemised account of the receipts and disbursements. Shall make an itemised report at the regular meetings of The Management Team and summarised report to the Assembly when required, and the accounts shall be audited, at least annually, under the direction of the Pastor and The Management Team.

The Treasurer shall be one having clerical and book-keeping ability and faithfulness of character, and one who possesses a spirit of hearty co-operation.

ARTICLE III - ELECTIONS

All voting in regard to appointments or elections shall be by secret ballot.

Sec. 1: Pastor:

The Pastor may be elected to serve for one or more years as determined by the Church at the time of election.

The Spiritual Oversight together with The Management Team, acting in the capacity of a Pulpit Committee, after prayerful inquiry and judicious counsel, full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select one or more available and scripturally qualified ministers as nominees to the Office of Pastor, and shall present their names without undue delay for the consideration of the Church.

A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast by members present at the meeting shall be required to constitute an election.

Calls to the pastorate shall be made through the General Secretary, including calls of a temporary nature. (See Article iv - Vacancies, Sec. 1 (e).)

Sec.1b: First Assistant and Assistant Pastors:

The First Assistant and Assistant Pastors shall be recommended by the Pastor in agreement with the Spiritual Oversight together with the Management Team and the First Assistant shall be elected if two-thirds majority vote of members present at the annual meeting, or special business meeting, of the Church. Assistant Pastors will be appointed by the Spiritual Oversight. All pastors must be members of the Church and fulfil all the conditions of membership.

Sec. 2: Elders:

Elders shall be appointed by the Pastor in unanimous agreement with the Spiritual Oversight. Elders shall be persons whose lives and conduct conform

to the Scriptures. (1 Tim 3:1-7) and who have been filled with the Holy Spirit as taught by the Church in accordance with Acts 2:4.

If an Elder absents himself from the services for more than five weeks without just cause, status is automatically lost. Elders shall hold office during the period of their membership, subject to review by the Pastor and Spiritual Oversight, unless they resign their office or are disqualified under the Constitution and By-laws of the Church.

Sec. 3: Deacons:

Deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the Assembly. They may be nominated by the Pastor, or by the membership and shall be elected by a majority vote of members present at the annual business meeting or special business meeting of the Assembly. If more than the determined number obtain a majority vote then those elected will be determined by the order of their majorities.

The number of deacons to be elected each year shall be determined by the Pastor and the Spiritual Oversight in accordance with the constitution and each poll a majority of votes. The Pastor and Spiritual Oversight have the right to examine nominees and in the event of scriptural disqualification, remove nominees name from those presented for election. They shall be elected to serve for a term of one year.

Sec. 4: The Secretary and the Treasurer:

The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the Management Team, either from among the members of The Management Team or from the general membership of the Assembly.

Sec. 5: Trustees:

The Trustees shall be nominated by the Pastor in cooperation with the Spiritual Oversight and in agreement with the Management Team and shall be elected by a majority vote of members present at the annual or special business meeting of the Church. Elections shall be for a minimum period of

three years each, or until such time after three years as may be decided by the church, but at no time shall all the Trustees go out of office together.

ARTICLE IV - VACANCIES

Sec. 1: The Pastorship.

(a) End of Pastor's Term:

When the Pastor's (or First Assistant's) tenure of office terminates it will then be necessary to vote for their re-election just as though their names came before the Assembly for the first time, along with any other nominees whose names have been submitted.

If a Pastor is not returned to office, a period of sixty days shall be given to arrange affairs and vacate the position of Pastor or as otherwise mutually arranged.

(b) Resignation of the Pastor:

In the event of the Pastor resigning, sixty days notice shall be given to the Assembly. This period may be shortened or increased by mutual consent of the Pastor, Spiritual Oversight and in consultation with the Management Team.

(c) Removal of Pastor - Incompatibility or Ineffective Ministry:

In such circumstances, power is vested in the Spiritual Oversight together with the Management Team subject to a majority vote of the members to ask for the resignation of the Pastor; or a petition in this connection may be submitted to the Management Team, through the Secretary by not less than one-fourth of the membership of the Church. The Spiritual Oversight shall present the matter to the Pastor, who shall indicate intention whether to give notice of resignation forthwith or have the question placed before the Church for decision.

If the Pastor so desires, The Management Team shall arrange to present the matter to a vote of the Assembly present called for the purpose, and presided over by a member of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand.

The complaint of ineffectiveness shall be disregarded if there is a two-thirds majority vote of those present in support of the Pastor. On the other hand, if the required two-thirds majority for the Pastor is not forthcoming he shall be given sixty days notice to arrange his affairs and vacate the Pastorship.

A report of such action shall be submitted to the Executive Council through the General Secretary, and the action taken shall be considered as affecting the standing of the minister with the General Council of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand.

Immoral Conduct, Radical Departure from the Tenets of Faith or other equally serious charges:

The Spiritual Oversight in consultation with the Management Team shall be empowered to suspend or remove the Pastor immediately upon proven charges of a serious nature. A full report, with the evidence, shall be submitted to the Executive Council through the General Secretary and the Executive Council shall be invited to meet with the Spiritual Oversight and the Management Team for a full discussion of the matter.

The Church shall be briefly informed of the action taken and the reason therefore, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.

(e) Ministerial Supply:

When a vacancy in the Pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged by the Spiritual Oversight together with the Management Team until the vacancy is filled as prescribed in Section 1, Article III of the By-laws. In the event of a temporary Pastor being asked to assist by filling a vacancy for a given period, confirmation of this appointment is to be sought by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly; and the call, if elected, shall be made through the General

Secretary. This provision is necessary to enable the Executive to first confirm the standing of the Pastor concerned before he is informed of the call, particularly if the Pastor is from another country.

Sec. 2: Other Offices:

(a) Vacancies filled by The Management Team:

(1) Vacancies in the Management Team, the Trust Board, or other important office, as a result of resignation, death, change of residence or other just cause shall be filled by a majority vote of the Spiritual Oversight and the Management Team in collaboration with the Pastor, until the next annual business meeting.

(2) Eligibility.

All responsible offices in the Assembly are to be filled by persons who have been baptised with the Holy Spirit in accordance with the Scriptures (Acts 2:4; 19: 1-7)

(b) Ground for Disqualification:

Any office may be declared vacant by the Senior Pastor with the Spiritual Oversight at any of their regular or special business meetings.

Grounds for such action shall be:

- (1) Unscriptural conduct.
- (2) Doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith.
- (3) Incompetence - incompatibility in office.
- (4) For any good and sufficient cause.

(c) Complaints:

Complaints against an incumbent should be lodged with the Pastor in writing, by two or three witnesses (1 Tim. 5:19).

d) Right of Appeal:

Any incumbent under charges shall have the right to a fair and impartial hearing of the case before a numerical majority of the Spiritual Oversight if so desired.

ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 1: Sunday School:

The Sunday School shall be conducted as a department of the Church.

The Pastor, in consultation with the Spiritual Oversight and The Management Team, shall appoint the Sunday School Superintendent, the appointment to be from among the members of the Church and for a period of one year.

It shall be the right of the Pastor, in collaboration with the Spiritual Oversight, the Management Team, and the Sunday School Superintendent, to appoint all offices, teachers and other workers of the Sunday School. The Sunday School Superintendent, in consultation with the Sunday School workers, shall determine the policies and programmes of the Sunday School, the policies and programmes to be approved by the Pastor.

All appointments to the Sunday School teaching staff shall be from the members of the Church, the appointments to be reviewed at the end of each year.

Sec. 2: Other Departments:

Other Departments may be organised as the need arises to carry out fully the vision of the Assembly.

Leaders of groups and departments shall be appointed annually by the Pastor and the Spiritual Oversight.

Sec. 3: Committees:

Committees shall be appointed by the Pastor in agreement with the Spiritual Oversight or the Management Team whenever they are needed in the Assembly to carry out its purposes.

Sec. 4: Minutes of Meetings:

For the information of the Pastor, and the interests of co-ordination of the work, the Minutes of each business meeting of the respective departments, or a copy thereof, shall be handed to the Pastor for perusal as soon as practicable.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

Sec. 1: Powers of Management Team.

The Management Team shall determine salaries, and remunerations. The Pastor, in collaboration with the Management Team, shall have the oversight of all financial matters in every department on behalf of and subject to the Church. Accounts and records may be subject to audit.

Sec. 2: Departmental Accounts:

Itemised accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the various departments of the Church shall be submitted by the Church Treasurer at the end of each year, or at any other time required, for the information of the Pastor and the Management Team. These accounts shall be subject to verification by the Church Treasurer annually.

Sec. 3: Obligation of Church Departments:

As far as practicable and reasonable, each department of the Church shall contribute to the expenses and commitments of the Church as a whole, provided always that the legitimate expenses and commitments of the respective departments shall be a first charge on their receipts.

Sec. 4: Remunerations:

All permanent staff shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by The Management Team in consultation with the Pastor. This will automatically include general wage orders and cost of living adjustments and shall be reviewed at least annually. The exception is voluntary staff.

Sec. 5: Authority for Expenditure:

All proposed expenditure exceeding \$55,000 on any single item shall first be referred to a meeting of the Church, a two-thirds majority vote of members present at the meeting being required for authorisation. Fares and other expenses in respect of an incoming Pastor shall be deemed as authorised by the Church meeting at which the Pastor was elected to office.

All other expenditure shall be at the discretion of the Pastor and Management Team.

Sec. 6: National Levy:

In accordance with the General Constitution, the Church shall, once in each calendar month, forward to the General Secretary funds for the purpose of the National Office.

ARTICLE VII - PROPERTY RIGHTS

Sec. 1: All real property owned by the Assembly shall be held by the Trust Board of the Assembly on behalf of the Assembly and in accord with the rules of the Trust Deed shall be administered according to the decisions of the Trust Board or Assembly made in accord with the terms of this Constitution and By-Laws. All or any of the personal property held or administered on behalf of the Assembly shall be held and administered in the name of the Assembly by The Management Team of Officers (or if so desired by The Management Team of Trustees) in accord with the terms of this Constitution and By-Laws.

Sec. 2: No real or chattel property of the Assembly exceeding \$55,000 in value shall be sold, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been

authorised by at least two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at a business meeting of the Assembly.

Sec. 3: The Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance or lease, that the same has been duly authorised by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Sec. 4: In the event that the Assembly herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the General Council of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand, Incorporated. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion, provided that the property or the proceeds from the sale thereof are used in furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

Sec. 5: In the event of schism in the membership of this Assembly, the property shall belong to that group holding to original Tenets of Faith and local form of Church government. Should it be required the Executive Council of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand would determine ownership of property.

ARTICLE VIII - VACATIONS

The basic vacation period for all permanent staff of the Church shall be three weeks annually with the senior pastor having four. Any further leave shall be given at the discretion of the Management Team.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Assembly by a two-thirds vote of the membership present, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of meeting, the announcement to be made by the Pastor or the Secretary.