



# OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION

AND

# BYLAWS

1048 State Road  
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts  
02568

*“Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.”  
Isaiah 42:12*

*Most recently revised on March 10, 2019*

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

## VINEYARD Assembly OF GOD

Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts

*Adopted on November 6, 2005  
Most recently revised on March 10, 2019*

*For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a church for worshipping the One True God, having fellowship among Christians and an open door to seekers, and for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ on Martha's Vineyard and beyond, we hereby recognize ourselves as a General Council Affiliated Assembly of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and adopt the following articles of church order for rule and practice.*

### CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be Vineyard Assembly of God.

#### ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

This assembly shall be affiliated with General Council of the Assemblies of God and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by this affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with the Southern New England District is under consideration by the affiliated assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the district officary to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officary the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation.

Specifically, we agree to:

- A. Invite the counsel of district officary in the event of church difficulty and when changing pastors.
- B. Recognize that the District and General Councils of the Assemblies of God shall have the right and authority to approve and disapprove our doctrine and conduct, according to the Scriptures, and according to their Constitution and Bylaws.
- C. Cooperate by every possible means to extend God's work and Kingdom.
- D. Share in the support of our District, national and World Fellowship, as indicated in District and National Constitution and Bylaws.
- E. Participate in Section and District Councils.

#### ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH (Statement of Fundamental Truths)

1. The Bible is Inspired

The Scriptures of the entire Bible are verbally inspired of God. It was not just the ideas that were inspired; even the choice of words was inspired as the original writers were moved by God to write what He wanted them to say. We therefore believe that 1) the Scriptures are God's revelation of Himself to mankind, 2) they are infallible (never wrong), and 3) they are the

divinely authoritative guide for our faith, belief, and manner of living (2 Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. One True God

There is one True God. He has revealed Himself as having always existed without any outside cause or agent bringing Him into being (Isaiah 43:10). He is the Creator of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1) and the One who redeems, saves, and rescues mankind from sin and its painful consequences (Isaiah 43:11). God has further revealed himself as a single Being (Deuteronomy 6:4) consisting of three interrelated persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22). This concept of one God or Being in three persons is called the Trinity.

3. The Lord Jesus is Fully God

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has always existed. He, too, is without beginning or end (Revelation 1:8). In order to complete His earthly sacrificial mission, he became human by being born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35). He lived a perfect life, absolutely without sin (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22). While on earth He worked many miracles through the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:22; 10:38). In order to restore fallen mankind, he died on the cross as a substitute for the sins of every person (I Corinthians 6:14; 15:4). Since his resurrection he has been exalted (honored), and is seated at the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; Acts 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Mankind

Mankind was created good and upright; for God said, "let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." (Genesis 1:26) However, mankind, by willful choice, ignored God's instructions...choosing to engage in what they knew was wrong and evil. As a result, mankind fell from innocence and goodness and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Mankind

Salvation is deliverance from spiritual death and enslavement by sin. God provides salvation for all who believe and accept His free offer of forgiveness. Mankind's only hope of salvation is through the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son - blood that was shed as Jesus died on the cross (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19).

*Conditions to Salvation:* Salvation is received as a person: 1) repents before God for his sins and sinful nature (inclinations), and 2) believes (has faith) in the fact that the death and resurrection (supernatural restoration to life) of Jesus Christ removes and brings forgiveness for his sin (Acts 10:43; I John 1:9). In response to placing his faith in God's love and freely given salvation, one experiences spiritual rebirth, the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, and is declared righteous (right with God). Regeneration, renewal, and justification (justified, or made right with God) are words describing what happens at salvation. At the moment of salvation, a person becomes heir to God's promised hope of eternal or everlasting life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

*Evidences of Salvation:* The inner evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit giving one the assurance that God has accepted him (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence, visible to others, is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12). In other words, it is living a life totally committed and pleasing to God.

6. The Ordinances of the Church

The Assemblies of God chooses to call water baptism and holy communion "ordinances" because they are religious practices ordained or established by Jesus Himself. In fulfilling these spiritual

duties, Christians are reminded of an important work that has already taken place in the heart of the believer.

#### *Baptism in Water*

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water is commanded in the Scriptures (Mark 16:16). All who repent and believe on Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord are to be baptized. This act of baptism symbolically declares to everyone that the old sinful life and lifestyle of the baptized believer died with Christ at salvation and a new spiritual being has been raised with Christ (in His resurrection) to live a new life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

#### *Holy Communion*

The Lord's Supper or Communion, consisting of bread and the fruit of the vine (grape juice), is a memorial of Christ's suffering and death (I Corinthians 11:26). In eating and drinking the symbols of Christ's suffering and death, the believer expresses his awareness that through salvation he 1) has been made right with God, and 2) shares the divine nature of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4). The ordinance also looks forward to Christ's second coming (I Corinthians 11:26) for it is a reminder to proclaim the Lord's death "until He comes"!

#### 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and therefore should expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit was the normal experience of believers in the early Christian church (Acts 2:4; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; 19:1-7). With the experience comes the provision of power for victorious Christian living, productive service, and supernatural gifts (John 7:38, 39; Acts 1:4, 8; 2:4, 41-47; I Corinthians 12:1-31; Acts 4:31). The baptism in the Holy Spirit is separate from salvation and follows the new birth experience (Luke 24:49; Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

#### 8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of Christians in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues (unlearned languages) as the Spirit of God gives them audible expression (Acts 2:4; 19:6). This form of speaking in tongues is basically the same as the gift of tongues mentioned in I Corinthians 12:4-10, 28. The difference is the purpose and use. One is evidence, and to be used for personal prayer and praise (I Corinthians 14:2, 4, 15); the other is a spontaneous gift in corporate worship to edify the body, when accompanied by an interpretation (I Corinthians 14:18, 19, 26, 27, 39).

#### 9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separating ourselves from evil and identifying with things that are good, upright, and morally pure. It is a process that takes place as Christians devote themselves to God (Romans 12:1, 2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach that we are to be holy because God is holy (I Peter 1:16). For "without holiness no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). Living in holiness is possible by the power of the Holy Spirit. A Christian is sanctified as he identifies with Christ, accepts in faith His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, and daily abides in Him (John 15:4; Romans 6:10-13).

#### 10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church as described in the Bible consists of all people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as the only remedy for their sins. The Church includes all Christians and has no boundaries as to age, race, gender, or denomination. It is the Body of Christ, the dwelling place

of God through the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Church. Each Christian is an integral part. The names of all true believers (those making up the Church) are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23). God's purpose concerning mankind is to:

- a. seek and to save people who are lost in sin (Luke 19:10),
- b. be worshipped by all mankind (Revelation 19:10; 22:19),
- c. build a unified body of believers mature in faith and knowledge like His Son, Jesus (Ephesians 4:12).

Therefore, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as a part of the Church is:

- a. to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16),
- b. to be a corporate or unified body in which man may worship God (I Corinthians 12:13; Acts 2:47),
- c. to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, Jesus (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

In fulfilling this threefold mission of the Church, members of the Assemblies of God are taught and encouraged to be baptized in the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament pattern.

Through this experience, believers evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3-4); worship God in an added dimension (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12:14); and respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expressing the fruit, gifts, and ministries as in New Testament times in order to build up the Church (I Corinthians 12:28; 14:12; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:29).

#### 11. The Ministry

Involvement in ministry in response to a divine call is scripturally ordained in the Bible. It is a provision of our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in 1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), 2) worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and 3) building a body of believers conforming to the life of Christ (Ephesians 4:11, 16).

#### 12. Divine Healing

Divine healing from God is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided in the Atonement (Christ's suffering and death for our reconciliation to God). Healing is a privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

#### 13. The Blessed Hope

All Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air. Christians who have not yet died will be raptured or "caught up" with them, to be with the Lord. Then Christians of all ages (times) will live with God forever. The scriptural truth of the Lord's soon return is the "blessed hope" (Romans 8:23; I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13).

#### 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of all Christians, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for 1,000 years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial (1,000 year) reign will bring the salvation of Israel as a nation (Ezekiel 37:21-22; Zephaniah 3:19-20; Romans 11:26-27) and the establishment of universal peace (Psalm 72:3-8; Isaiah 11:6-9; Micah 4:3-4).

#### 15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead-those who have died without accepting Christ's salvation- will be raised and judged according to the way they lived. Anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life (God's recorded list of people who received

Christ's forgiveness), together with the devil and his angels, the beast, and the false prophet, will be sent to everlasting punishment in the lake that burns with fire, which is the second death (Matthew 25:26; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"According to God's promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell and reign forever." (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

**ARTICLE IV. PARTNERSHIP**

Section 1. Partnership Eligibility:

Partnership in this assembly shall be open to all those who meet the standard of membership as outlined in Article I, Section I of the Bylaws. Partnership shall be classified as active or inactive as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Voting Partnership:

All whose names appear on the Active Partnership Roll shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly.

Section 3. Junior Partnership:

Partnership shall be available for young people under 18 years of age who given evidence of the new birth, having received Christ as personal Savior, and who meet the other qualifications for membership established by this assembly. They shall have voting privileges at 18 years of age.

Section 4. Marriage:

Use of the church facilities shall be available for Christian (as understood by the General Council of the Assemblies of God) weddings only; furthermore, uses and activities that are contrary to biblical precepts and teaching will not be permitted. Marriage ceremonies that involve same-sex marriages and any civil union between same-sex persons, whether or not allowed by civil law, are contrary to the church's religious convictions and are expressly forbidden. Marriage ceremonies or any activity that contradicts the biblical position of the church on matters of faith and/or living shall be excluded from use of any facility on the church property.

Section 5. Partnership:

For the sake of clarity in conducting the business of the Assembly, the terms "partner" and "partnership" shall be regarded as substitutions for the terms "member" and "membership" respectively.

**ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

Section 1. Offices:

There shall be a Pastor, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Deacons and Trustees.

Section 2. The Official Board:

The Official Board of this church shall consist of the Pastor, Secretary, Treasurer, and three to five Deacons. The Board may consist of a maximum of 8 members.

A. Both men and women may serve on this Board in any capacity.

B. Trustees meeting the requirements of Deacon may serve as both Deacon and Trustee.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees will consist of Partners who have a willingness to serve the physical needs of the church property. Trustees shall have been active voting members of the Assembly for a minimum of six months, and may be elected or appointed by the pastor and Church Board.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Meetings for Public Worship:**

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and the Board.

### **Section 2. Annual Business Meeting:**

There shall be a Business Meeting of the Assembly annually, during the first quarter of the year, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the reports of all officers shall be presented. The date, time and place shall be announced by the Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

### **Section 3. Special Business Meetings:**

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the assembly, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority vote of the Board. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active Partnership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the church should request the help of the district officary.

### **Section 4. Quorum:**

No record of any special or regular business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third or more active Partners shall be present to constitute a quorum.

### **Section 5. Board Meetings:**

The Board, with the Pastor, shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business for the assembly, the time and place to be announced by the Pastor. More meetings may be scheduled by the Pastor if urgent issues arise.

## **ARTICLE VII. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Sunday School:**

There shall be a Sunday School created and conducted as a branch of the church activities.

### **Section 2. Departments:**

Youth, Men's and Women's Ministries, Missionettes, and Royal Rangers, said departments shall be formed as leadership is available, and shall be under the supervision of the Pastor and Board.

### **Section 3. Other Departments and Committees:**

Other Departments and Committees: As need arises, other departments and committees shall be established (Titus 3:14).

#### Section 4. Relationship:

All departments and committees 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 Board, and the Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. (Ephesians 4:3)

### ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the tithes and offerings of the Partners and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and Board, and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8) In the event this assembly ceases to function as an Assemblies of God church body that is affiliated with the General Council, all finances shall become the property of the Southern New England District. The Southern New England District Presbytery shall have full authority to use or dispose of these finances at its discretion.

### ARTICLE IX. PROPERTY

#### Section 1. Property:

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name.

#### Section 2. Defection from the Tenets of Faith:

In the event defection shall occur from the Tenets of Faith of this church as the same are stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or from affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, any portion of the Partnership subscribing to and practicing the aforesaid Tenets of Faith and retaining Partnership with Vineyard Assembly of God shall retain possession of, and title to, all properties of said church with full rights thereto as provided in its Constitution and Bylaws.

#### Section 3. Cessation of Function:

In the event this church shall cease to function for the purposes as declared heretofore in its Articles of Agreement and/or the Articles of its Constitution and Bylaws, then after providing for the payment of its debt, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons, but all such remaining assets shall revert to, and be transferred to, the parent body, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Corporation with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Southern New England District and under the direction of the presbytery of the said district. In the event of cessation of this church, its Board shall within one year thereafter transfer all properties and any remaining assets to the General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the foregoing provisions. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed herein or if the aforesaid General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer as an organization operated exclusively for religious purpose with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then deposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which this church is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to an organization or organizations having purposes nearest the purpose of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which have established tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Section 4. Defection of the District and/or General Council of the Assemblies of God:  
In the event that the District and/or General Council of the Assemblies of God defects from the present Statement of Fundamental Truths, Vineyard Assembly of God may cease affiliation with said Councils and retain full authority of property rights and ownership.

#### **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by the following procedure:

1. Partnership shall be notified of the proposed amendment two consecutive weeks before a regular or special business meeting called for that purpose.
2. Proposed amendment shall be thoroughly discussed by the Partnership at said meeting and voted upon.
3. The Partnership shall vote by secret ballot, including absentee ballots—a two-thirds majority of the Partnership voting shall constitute a decision. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Tenets of Faith, which stand regardless of majority.

#### **ARTICLE XI. QUALIFICATIONS OF PASTOR**

The Pastor shall be a credentialed minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God.

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE 1. PARTNERSHIP

#### **Section 1.** Standard of Partnership:

Partnership in this assembly shall be open to all those who meet the following qualifications:

- a. Give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Have been baptized in water by immersion.
- c. Show evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; I John 1:6,7)
- d. Indicate a willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of Vineyard Assembly of God.
- e. Accept the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article III of the Constitution.
- f. Have reached at least 16 years of age.
- g. Have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- h. Agree to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of this assembly and of the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

#### **Section 2.** Reception of Partners:

- A. Persons desiring to be Partners of this assembly shall attend scheduled Partnership classes or meetings with the Pastor and complete the Partnership Application.
- B. The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for Partnership to the Official Board, which will review the Application and give a final decision. All persons who shall have met the Partnership requirements and have been approved shall be received into the assembly publicly at any regular Sunday service and the names shall be added to the roster.
- C. Individuals may be received into Partnership by letter of transfer from the Pastor of another Assembly of God church with the approval of the Pastor and Church Board.

#### **Section 3.** Pastor and Spouse:

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during his tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor.

#### **Section 4.** Discipline:

Keeping in mind Matthew 7:3-5, Galatians 5:22-23 and Proverbs 19:11, discipline is every member's responsibility (i.e. Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:9-11). When the need for discipline arises (i.e. departing from the Standard of Partnership), the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17 will be followed. The alleged offender is approached by a caring brother or sister. If the issue is unresolved, one or two more are brought to witness and weigh the situation, and if still no resolution, they tell it to the church Board, who meet with the confronter and alleged offender and make a determination. If yet still no resolution, said person will be removed from the Partnership Roll, treated and loved as a nonbeliever, and if damage is being done, the entire church will be made aware of his or her status. They will be joyfully restored into fellowship when they repent before God and the Board.

#### **Section 5.** Severance of Relationship with the Assembly:

Partners in good standing who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly, or who may desire to transfer to another congregation, may inform the Board by correspondence. A letter of approval from the Board, signed by the Pastor and Secretary, shall be sent to the Partner. In every possible case, the Partner shall receive the blessing of the Board.

#### **Section 6.** Revision of the Partnership Roll:

The Pastor and Official Board shall revise the Partnership Roll in the fall of each year, to remove from the list all names of those who may have deceased during the year, together with those who have withdrawn

from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and/or have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly.

A. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Board, through the Secretary, and the Partnership shall be informed via mail. If appeal is made to the Official Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation via the Board for a special congregational “hearing”. The action of the assembly by a majority vote shall be considered final.

B. Active Partners who have willfully been absent from regular services for a period of three months, shall be placed on the inactive or honorary roll at this time. These changes will be subject to the provisions outlined in part A above. Inactive Partners who apply to the Church Board will be granted active status with board approval.

C. The names of any Partners moving from the Island and failing to correspond with the church for a period of one year may be removed from the Partnership roll. Any persons remaining in the inactive Partnership file for one year may be removed from the roll. The Pastor and Board of Deacons shall be authorized to make such removals when necessary after proper efforts to restore the delinquent Partners have been made.

#### **Section 7. Special Partnership:**

A. Junior Partners: Youth 16 to 18 years old who desire to be Partners of Vineyard Assembly of God and fulfill the standards of Partnership (Section 1) may follow the same procedure as adults (Section 2). All other Sections in Article I of the Bylaws apply, only that voting will not be permitted until they are 18 years old. If church discipline is necessary, parents will be notified first. Upon turning 18 years old, Junior Partners in good standing will automatically become Active Partners.

B. Honorary Partners: Honorary Partners shall consist of those Partners who have entered the ministry as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, those serving in the Armed Services, those away at college, shut-ins, or those absent for extended period with good cause, which makes it impossible to serve as active Partners. Honorary Partnership recognition shall continue as long as the Partner maintains a consistent Christian life and remains sound in doctrine and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the Home Assembly. Voting privilege may be granted at the discretion of the Official Board.

C. Associate Partnership: The Official Board shall be authorized to make provisions for associate (nonvoting) Partners when such persons may have to be absent from their Home Assembly for prolonged periods of time. This may include those from another area who spend a significant portion of the year staying on the Island, away from their Home Assembly.

## **ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. The Pastor:**

The assembly finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ, the “Chief Shepherd,” and its senior pastor as “Shepherd” (I Peter 5:24), hereafter referred to as Pastor. He should be honored in his office as spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be president of the corporation and shall serve as chairman of all business meetings of the assembly and Official Board meetings. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He shall appoint all departmental leaders and committees. He shall provide for the services of the assembly and shall arrange

for all special meetings. No person shall be invited to speak, teach, or preach in the assembly without his approval.

**Section 2. The Church Board:**

The administrative affairs of the church shall be carried on by the Official Board, who at various and appropriate times will bring matters before the entire body for input. A majority present at any meeting of the Official Board 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 Official Board shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership, in order to transact business for the assembly. There shall be no more than eight (8) Board members.

**A. The Secretary:**

He/she shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. The Secretary shall keep a record of the Partnership of the assembly and be the custodian of all important documents (which shall remain accessible in the church office). There shall be a Secretary. The Secretary shall be part of the legislative body, as stated in Article V of the Constitution. The Secretary shall meet the requirements of a Board member detailed in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

**B. The Treasurer:**

He/she shall be responsible for overseeing: 1) the keeping of itemized accounts of all receipts and disbursements in the financial ledgers, and 2) the compiling of monthly and annual financial statements, including the performance of all clerical work required to keep the financial records of the church up to date (copies of all said ledgers and statements shall be kept in the church office). He/she or delegated person(s) is to deposit all funds in the church bank account—said bank is to be approved by the Official Board. Disbursements of church funds are to be made by check and signed by the Treasurer and Pastor (or designated Board member). The Treasurer shall present an itemized report to the board at their regular meetings and a summarized report to the assembly at its annual meeting, and is part of the legislative body of the church as stated in Article V of the Constitution. The Treasurer shall meet the requirements of a Board member detailed in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

**C. Deacons:**

Deacons shall serve as an advisory board to the Pastor in conducting the administrative affairs of the church. Deacons shall be elected; are under the guidance and authority of the Pastor, and are accountable to the Pastor, the other Deacons, and the church body, respectively. Deacons are part of the legislative body of the church as stated in Article V of the Constitution.

**Section 3. The Board of Trustees:**

The Board of Trustees shall oversee the cleaning, maintenance, management, and improvement of all church property. The Board of Trustees will meet regularly, and present a facilities report to the board at their regular meetings and a summarized report to the assembly at its annual meeting. They may also serve as Deacons, but are not intrinsically part of the legislative body. There shall be no more than 2 Trustees on the Official Board. Trustees shall be elected or appointed by the pastor and Board; are under the guidance and authority of the Pastor, and are accountable to the Pastor, the Board, and the church body, respectively.

**ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** In the event of a vacancy in the pastorate, the District Superintendent shall, in cooperation with the Board, arrange for the assembly to elect a successor. The pastor must be a credentialed minister in good standing with the Assembly of God. The congregation shall vote on candidates, one at a time, by

secret ballot, during a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority shall constitute an election. The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period of time.

**Section 2. Board Members:**

A. Qualifications for Deacons (based on Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13, New International Version).

1. Known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom
2. Worthy of respect
3. Sincere
4. Not indulging in much wine
5. Not pursuing dishonest gain
6. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience
7. They must first be tested; then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as Deacons
8. Their wives (note: or, deaconesses) are to be women of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything
9. The husband of one wife
10. Must manage his children and his household well
11. Be at least 23 years old
12. Have been a member of the assembly for at least one year
13. Currently support the church with their tithes and offerings
14. Regularly attend church services
15. Have a cooperative spirit
16. Not hold ministerial credentials
17. Be a partner of Vineyard Assembly of God in good standing

B. Elections of Deacons:

All future Board Members shall be nominated by the Partnership four weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting by ballot, and qualifications reviewed by the existing Board. An appointed Board Member will contact qualifying nominees inquiring whether they desire to serve. All nominees who are qualified to serve as Board Members and are willing to serve shall be considered for election. Two weeks before the Annual Business Meeting, Partners will be given the final list of nominees for prayer and consideration, then at the Annual Business Meeting they shall be voted upon by secret ballot and elected by a majority of all votes cast for each office.

No two people related within the third degree, as defined hereinafter, shall be allowed to serve on the Church Board at the same time. No employee of the Assembly, or relative of an employee, within the third degree, shall serve on the Church Board. For purposes of this section, the third degree of relationship is deemed to include the following individuals: parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, great grandchild, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece and nephew, and the spouse of any of the foregoing individuals.

**Section (1) Deacons**

Deacons shall be elected for a two-year term and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successors are elected. Deacons may not serve more than three consecutive terms. After three consecutive terms of service, a minimum period of one year shall lapse before the member is eligible to serve again. The terms of the Deacons shall be staggered appropriately.

**Section (2) The Secretary**

There shall be an official Secretary of the Board who shall be appointed by the Pastor and Board of Deacons from among the Deacons, said appointment being made at the first monthly Board Meeting following the Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly. The Secretary shall thus serve concurrently with their term as a Deacon.

### **Section (3) The Treasurer**

There shall be an official Treasurer of the Board who shall be appointed by the Pastor and Board of Deacons from among the Deacons, said appointment being made at the first monthly Board Meeting following the Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly. The Treasurer shall thus serve concurrently with their term as a Deacon. Since the Treasurer is a key signatory for the business of the Assembly, the Treasurer shall retain the duties of signatory until a successor is appointed.

### **Section (4) Trustees**

Trustees shall be appointed by the Pastor and Board of Deacons from among the Active Partnership of the Assembly, with due consideration being given to the Partner's abilities. Trustees shall serve for a two-year term without term limits.

## **ARTICLE IV. VACANCIES**

### **Section 1. The Pastor:**

In the event of a resignation, the District Superintendent shall be notified at least thirty days in advance by the pastor. In the event the pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, the District Superintendent, in cooperation with the District Presbytery and Official Board, may request his resignation; and if the request for the pastor's resignation is refused, the District Superintendent shall have the right to declare the pastorate vacant. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for by the District Superintendent in cooperation with the Official Board; and a special business meeting will be scheduled for the assembly, Board, and Superintendent to discuss and pray about the matter.

### **Section 2. Other Offices:**

Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Official Board at any regular or special Board meeting, and inform the Partnership via mail within one month. In the event that an office is vacated, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Pastor and Official Board. Grounds for such action shall be: Unscriptural conduct, departure from the Tenets of Faith, incompetence in office, or for any such good and sufficient cause, or if a Board member resigns and the Board accepts such resignation.

A. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a hearing of his case before the Official Board if requested. If the case cannot be resolved, the counsel of the District Superintendent shall be solicited.

B. If a Board Member desires to resign from the Board, he/she shall attend the next Board meeting and state his/her intention.

## **ARTICLE V. FINANCES**

### **Section 1. Salaries and Compensation:**

The Official Board shall determine all salaries and compensation. An annual report regarding all of the Assembly's financial matters shall be sent to the District Office.

### **Section 2. Missions:**

Because the way one handles their finances is a reflection of their priorities (Matthew 6:21), this assembly is committed to monthly Missions giving and having a Missions Emphasis (Convention) at least annually, monthly giving into Benevolence and Evangelism funds, and monthly giving into a pastor's pension.

**Section 3. District Tithes:**

It is requested that one percent of the general income of this assembly be sent to the District Office on a monthly or quarterly basis.

**ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**Section 1. Property Ownership:**

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly.

**Section 2. Property Management:**

No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same having first been authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting Partnership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal.

**Section 3. Property Certificates:**

The Pastor and Secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by the vote of the Partnership of the assembly. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

**ARTICLE VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The regular order of business for the Annual Meeting of the assembly shall be as follows:

1. Devotional Prayer
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
3. Pastor's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Committee and Ministry Reports
6. Unfinished Business
7. Election of Officers
8. New Business
9. Prayer and Adjournment

**ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER**

In the conducting of its affairs, the church shall be governed first by the Holy Scriptures, and second, by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and friendship.

**ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by the following procedure:

1. Partnership shall be notified of the proposed amendment two consecutive weeks before a regular or special business meeting called for that purpose.
2. Proposed amendment shall be thoroughly discussed by the Partnership at said meeting and voted upon.
3. The Partnership shall vote by secret ballot, including absentee ballot, a two-thirds majority of the Partnership voting shall constitute a decision.