WORLD
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FELLOWSHIP

CONSTITUTION

AND

BYLAWS

ADOPTED
August 2000 – Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

REVISIONS
Revisions of this Constitution and Bylaws by the General Assembly
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CONSTITUTION

Revisions Approved October 2023

PREAMBLE

In July 1988, at the invitation of Dr. J. Philip Hogan, Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions, Assemblies of God, USA, general superintendents from 40 nations gathered in Springfield, Missouri, USA to discuss the possibility of active cooperation in world evangelism with a special focus on the harvest decade. A Provisional Committee composed of Assemblies of God representatives from each continent was chosen to propose means for implementing a worldwide Fellowship. The delegates at this Decade of Harvest Conference unanimously adopted the Declaration of a Decade of Harvest and signed the document.

In August 1989, the International Decade of Harvest Conference convened at Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Upon the recommendation of the Provisional Committee, the delegates adopted the documents known as the World Pentecostal Assemblies of God Fellowship Constitution and Bylaws. Dr. Hogan was elected the first chairman of the Fellowship, and the USA Assemblies of God provided the office space and service to the Fellowship.

The purpose of the Fellowship was to pursue the fulfillment of the Lord's command to evangelize the lost in the shortest possible time, providing them the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel in all its fullness, by encouraging and assisting one another, promoting harmonious relationships among ourselves and the broader body of Christ, and seeking the most effective means of its accomplishment under the dynamic leadership of the Holy Spirit.

A newsletter was created and circulated among the member councils, and the news and reports from different parts of the world encouraged others to grow and go forward in reaching the unreached.

From the inception of the Fellowship, special emphasis was placed on a worldwide prayer network and coordinating prayer power. Elected in 1992, Dr. David Yonggi Cho became the Fellowship’s second chairman.

In September 1993, the name was changed to “World Assemblies of God Fellowship.” Then in 1994, Dr. Cho led the first World Assemblies of God Fellowship Congress in Seoul, Korea. The main thrust was on prayer, and there were one million participants and several thousand delegates from all over the world.

Missions and prayer were not the only emphasis. The Fellowship has been keen to protect religious liberty as one strong voice of the worldwide Assemblies of God, and from time to time, has made appeal to the United Nations and different governments because of assassination and persecution of Assemblies of God brethren.

To meet humanitarian needs, an extended arm of the Fellowship was created under the name of World Assemblies of God Relief and Development Agency (WAGRA) in 1994 during the Seoul Congress. Since Dr. Prince Guneratnam was appointed the first International Chairman of WAGRA, the office was set up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and with the large sum of goodwill contributions from members, WAGRA immediately started providing relief assistance to many suffering nations of the world.

At their Seoul meeting in 1996, the Executive Committee addressed the need for the Fellowship to go beyond the Decade of Harvest. With a sense of the imminence of the Lord's return, there is also a sense of great spiritual hunger and need in this world. The mandate to preach the Gospel to all creatures has never changed, but the urgency of the task is greater, yet the time is slipping away. The Assemblies of God as the largest, single Pentecostal group must cooperate and coordinate their full strength to accomplish the Great Commission.

A subcommittee was appointed to study the existing Constitution and Bylaws of the Fellowship and to make a proposal for restructuring the Fellowship for a more lasting and more cooperative Fellowship. The proposal document herein was prepared to present to the General Assembly in the United States in August 2000, and the World Assemblies of God Fellowship began a new step towards the 21st century.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Fellowship shall be the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (hereafter referred to as the World Fellowship).

ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH

PREFACE

This Statement of Faith is intended simply as a basis for belief, fellowship, and cooperation among us. The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a truly Pentecostal ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need for these essential doctrines.

1. The Inspiration of the Scriptures
   We believe that the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings, insuring their entire trustworthiness (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21).
2. The Eternal Godhead
   We believe in the unity of the one true and living God who is the eternal, self-existent One, and has revealed Himself as one being in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19).
   a. God the Father
      We believe in God the Father, the first person of the triune Godhead, who exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 15:28).
   b. The Lord Jesus Christ
      We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the triune Godhead, who was and is the eternal Son of God; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.
   c. The Holy Spirit
      We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune Godhead, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting and regenerating the sinner, sanctifying the believer, leading into all truth and empowering for ministry. (John 14:26; 16:8-11; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:14-16).
3. The Fall of Man
   We believe that humankind was created good and upright. However, voluntary transgression resulted in their alienation from God, thereby incurring not only physical death but spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:16-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).
4. The Salvation of Man
   We believe in salvation through faith in Christ, who died for our sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead on the third day. By His atoning blood, salvation has been provided for all humanity through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. This experience is also known as the new birth and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, and adopted into the family of God, becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus, and heir of eternal life (John 3:5-6; Romans 10:8-15; Titus 2:11, 3:4-7; 1 John 5:1).
5. Divine Healing
   We believe that deliverance from sickness is provided in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).
6. The Church and its Mission
   We believe that the church is the body of Christ and the habitation of God through the Spirit, witnesses to the presence of the kingdom of God in the present world and universally includes all who are born again (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; Romans 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 4:20).
   We believe that the mission of the church is to (1) proclaim the good news of salvation to all humankind, (2) build up and train believers for spiritual ministry, (3) praise the Lord through worship, (4) demonstrate Christian compassion to all who suffer, and (5) exhibit unity as the body of Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20; 10:42; Ephesians 4:11-13).
7. The Ordinances of the Church
   We believe that baptism in water by immersion is expected of all who have repented and believed. In so doing they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4).
   We believe that the Lord's Supper is a proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be shared by all believers until the Lord returns (Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:20-34).

8. Sanctification
   We believe that sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. In experience, it is both instantaneous and progressive. It is produced in the life of the believer by his appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the person of the Holy Spirit. He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches him through the Word and produces the character of Christ within him (Romans 6:1-11; 8:1-2,13; 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 10:10, 14).
9. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit
   We believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the bestowing of the believer with power for life and service for Christ. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the new birth, is received by faith, and is accompanied by the manifestation of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance as the initial evidence (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 8:15-19; 11:14-17; 19:1-7).
10. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
    We believe in the present-day operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) and the ministry gifts of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13) for the edification and expansion of the church.
11. The End of Time
    We believe in the premillennial, imminent, and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather His people unto Himself. Having this blessed hope and earnest expectation, we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes (John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1 John 3:2-3; Revelation 20:1-6).
    We believe in the bodily resurrection of all humanity, the everlasting conscious bliss of all who truly believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that everlasting conscious punishment is the portion of all whose names are not written in the Book of Life (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:22-24; Revelation 20:10-15).

ARTICLE III: NATURE AND FUNCTION

The nature of this Fellowship is a cooperative body of worldwide Assemblies of God national councils and related associations of equal standing. It is not a legislative organ to any national entity, but it is rather a coalition of commitment for the global furtherance of the Gospel and the kingdom of God as a service agent:

1. To uphold one another in prayer.
2. To support and encourage one another in the task of missions and evangelism.
3. To promote Christian fellowship and cooperation among Assemblies of God people throughout the world.
4. To provide means of consultation and cooperation among the members and related agencies.
5. To share mutual concerns and insights relating to any crucial, spiritual and temporal issues of the Church.
6. To advocate relief, through approved agencies, in times of crises.
7. To promote exchange of personnel in special areas of ministry.
8. To disseminate helpful information and up-to-date statistics for the benefit of the Church.
9. To be a voice to the world and governments in defense of the faith, social justice, and persecuted believers, as the largest single Pentecostal group.
10. To cooperate with the broader body of Christ whenever possible.
11. The World Fellowship respects the autonomy and self-governance of each member. However, it will serve as an advisor, mediator in situations that require it, safeguard the Statement of Faith of the member countries, and ensure the integrity and unity of the global Fellowship.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Any national councils and related associations of equal standing which desire to cooperate in the work of the World Fellowship is eligible to apply for membership, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
2. In accepting membership in the World Fellowship, each national superintendent/national leader thereby agrees with the Constitution and Bylaws, Statement of Faith, and Nature and Function of the World Fellowship. This includes accepting responsibility for assisting in the furtherance of the purpose and work of the World Fellowship.

ARTICLE V: STRUCTURE AND MEETINGS

1. The elected representatives or national leader of each World Fellowship member will be able to participate in the General Assembly, which is ordinarily held every three years.
2. The General Assembly is organized into a regional structure for the effective collaboration and furtherance of the functions of the World Fellowship as stipulated in Article III.
3. The Executive Council shall be formed by the elected representatives of each region for a term of three years. Their term shall commence immediately after the close of the General Assembly of the World Fellowship at which they were duly elected.
4. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the transaction of all business matters as authorized by the General Assembly and shall meet annually to review and chart the direction and progress of the World Fellowship.
5. All delegates and Executive Council members shall attend all meetings at their own expense.
6. The Executive Council shall, from among themselves, nominate candidates for each officer's post, stipulated in Article VI, and election shall be by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly.
7. The Executive Council shall have the authority to invite non-Executive Council members who are field experts and specialists to provide consultation and expertise for specific meeting agendas. Invited members are not entitled to vote.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND OFFICE LOCATION

1. The executive officers shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, and the Secretary.
2. Their term of office shall be for three years and shall commence immediately after the close of the General Assembly at which they were elected.
3. The executive officers shall meet not less than once every year to administer interim business of the World Fellowship.
4. The location of the office of the World Fellowship shall be at a location as determined by the Chair.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS' DUTIES

1. It shall be the duty of the Chair:
   a. To preside at the General Assembly of the World Fellowship.
   b. To preside at the meetings of the Executive Council.
   c. To supervise all work at the office of the World Fellowship.
   d. To have oversight of the work of the World Fellowship on behalf of the General Assembly and Executive Council.
   e. To represent the World Fellowship to the outside world and to collaborate with other leaders of Christ's body.
   f. To carry out any other duties usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the Executive Council or by the General Assembly.
   g. To give their vote in the event of an equal vote on any matter, and to announce their decision.
   h. To be an ex-officio member of any special commission setup by the Executive Council, except where otherwise stated with the courtesy of the chair when in attendance.
2. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chair:
   a. To preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair.
   b. To assist the Chair.
   c. To perform any other duties under the supervision of the Chair or as such may be directed by the Executive Council or General Assembly.
3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary:
   a. To act as Secretary to the Executive Council and General Assembly and make and file accurate records of the proceedings at all meetings.
   b. To be custodian of all official records, minutes of conferences and meetings of Executive Council and General Assembly and of correspondence inward and copies of outward correspondence to the Assemblies of God World Fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII: SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

1. There shall be provision made for such special commissions as may be established by the Executive Council from time to time which shall be instruments of the World Fellowship for the purpose of providing services.

2. These special commissions shall be accountable to and report directly to the Executive Council and would serve the purpose of World Assemblies of God. The special commissioners are appointed by the Executive Council for a term of three years renewable thereafter.

Aide memoire note: For reference, special commissions such as Church Health, Church Planting, and Missions Commission are some such commissions that were established by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE

1. The sources of income shall be a contribution by each member within the World Fellowship, freewill offerings by local churches, and voluntary gifts.
2. A proposed budget and financial report shall be submitted to the Executive Council for approval.
3. The Chair shall have oversight of the financial accounting and reporting of the World Fellowship, and all relevant books and records shall be properly kept at the office of the World Fellowship.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any General Assembly, provided notice of an amendment shall have been submitted to the members three months before the meeting.

BYLAWS

BYLAW I: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1. Any national councils and related associations of equal standing, which desires to become a member of the World Fellowship shall complete and submit a membership application form to the office of the Chair.
2. The Executive Council shall act upon the application at their next meeting.

BYLAW II: GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND STRUCTURE

1. Each member organization shall have one vote in the General Assembly.
2. The dates of the General Assembly of the World Fellowship should preferably coincide with the World Fellowship's triennial conference.
3. The Executive Council shall comprise of the executive officers, Cabinet, and elected representatives of the region.
4. The executive officers (Executive Leadership Team) shall comprise of the elected Chair, Vice Chair, and the Secretary.
5. The Cabinet shall comprise of the Executive Leadership Team, Chair and Vice Chair of the Commissions, elected regional chairs, and an advisory board.
6. The regional structure of the Executive Council members from each region shall be as follows:
   a. Each regional bloc will hold a formal election among its member superintendents to elect at least one Chair and one Secretary (if the regional bloc is large, a Vice-Chair may also be elected). These positions will have a three (3) year term, coinciding with the triennial meetings of the General Assembly.
   b. From among the elected national leaders of the regional bloc, the Region will choose one to be part of the Cabinet.

AFRICA

President of Africa Assemblies of God Alliance (AAGA)
Central Africa
East Africa
Islands of East Africa
Southern Africa
West Africa

ASIA
- Central Asia
- North Asia
- Northeast Asia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia

EUROPE
- Central Europe
- Eastern Europe
- North Europe
- South Europe
- The Balkans
- West Europe

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN
- Brazil
- Mexico and Latin Caribbean
- Central America
- Andean
- Southern Cone

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
- Middle East and North Africa

NORTH AMERICA AND ENGLISH CARIBBEAN
- North Atlantic and Canada
- United States of America
- Non-Spanish Caribbean

OCEANIA
- Oceania

BYLAW III: ELECTIONS

1. The Executive Council members must be elected representatives of the regional caucuses in regional elections by members present. Regional executives should conduct their elections in accordance with their regional constitution. Their appointment as Executive Council members shall then be duly approved at the General Assembly of the World Fellowship.
2. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary as specified in World Assemblies of God Fellowship's Constitution Article V (clause 6) and Article VI, shall be elected by the General Assembly from two nominees submitted by the Executive Council for each position.
3. Once the Chair of the World Fellowship has been duly elected according to the provisions in Article V (clause 6), the Chair may relinquish their earlier elected position as a regional representative but for the avoidance of doubt, shall remain as an Executive Council member. The Chair will not chair the regional fellowship but may have another elected officer from the member organization represented in the regional structure.
4. The term of office of the newly elected Executive Council member shall expire on the same date as that of the Executive Council member they have replaced.

BYLAW IV: VACANCIES

1. Should a vacancy occur in any sector of the Executive Council, a replacement who is an elected representative of a national council or related association in the region will be selected by that respective regional fellowship or association to fill the vacancy until the region holds its next regional election, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
2. The terms of office of the newly elected Executive Council members shall expire on the same date as that of the Executive Council member being replaced.

3. Should any of the executive officers be unable to serve their full term of office, the Executive Council shall arrange for and elect another to the vacancy or vacancies at the next Executive Council meeting.
4. Should the Chair be unable to serve their full term of office, the Vice Chair shall assume their duties as the Acting Chair until the next General Assembly.
5. Should the Secretary be unable to serve their full term of office, the Chair shall appoint the Vice Chair to serve as Acting Secretary until the next Executive Council meeting.
6. Should an Executive Council member cease to be a national or regionally elected leader of their country or region, that Executive Council member may:
    6.1. Continue to serve in the Executive Council until the next regional election, subject to the approval of the executive officers.
    6.2. Or Relinquish their position in the Executive Council subject to the approval of the executive officers. In that event, Bylaw IV (1) above shall apply.

BYLAW V: SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

1. The special commissions, as set up by the Executive Council from time to time, shall formulate and adopt their own terms of reference and written set of policies and procedures, which shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
2. The special commissions shall publish such reports as are necessary and appropriate.'

Aide memoire note: For reference, special commissions such as Church Health, Church Planting, and Missions Commission are some such commissions that were established by the Executive Council.

BYLAW VI: CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

Each member of the World Fellowship is obligated to support the World Fellowship by making a financial contribution to the general fund. The quantum of this financial contribution shall be recommended by the officers under Article IX (clause 1) to the Executive Council for approval.

The Executive Council approved and recommended the following contribution amounts: $5,000, $2,000, $1,000, $500.

BYLAW VII: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws may be made by a simple majority of votes cast at an Executive Council meeting and then ratified by the General Assembly of the World Fellowship.

Where these bylaws are silent on any matter, the Executive Council may decide such matter in good faith in a manner consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.