

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT, INC.
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD**

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

WHEREAS, It is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a people, who shall constitute the Body, the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Body, the Church, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and

WHEREAS, according to God's Word, the early Christians came together in such fellowship as a representative Body of blood-washed and Spirit-filled believers who cooperated with and sent out evangelists and missionaries and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit set over the churches, pastors, teachers, deacons, and helpers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we recognize ourselves as a cooperative fellowship of Christians, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:31).

ARTICLE I

Name

SECTION 1. The name of this body shall be the "Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Inc.," hereinafter designated as the "District."

SECTION 2. The Central California District shall encompass that portion of the states of California and Nevada lying south of the following described line:

Beginning at the western terminus of U.S. Highway 40, thence continuing easterly along said U.S. Highway 40 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 50, to its intersection with California State Highway 120, thence continuing easterly along said California State Highway 120 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 6, to its intersection with the eastern boundary of the state of Nevada; and lying northerly of the following described line:

Beginning at Conception, California, thence continuing easterly in a direct line with Grapevine, California, to the west boundary of Kern County, thence north along said county line to intersection with south line of San Benito and Kings Counties, thence easterly along south line of Kings, Tulare and Inyo Counties to the east line of California, and bounded on the west by the western boundary line of the state of California and on the east by the eastern boundary line of the state of Nevada, and the state of Hawaii. The city of Delano is included in the Central California District.

This District shall, as nearly as possible, represent in all detail THE BODY OF CHRIST as described in the New Testament, recognizing the principles inherent in that Body as also inherent in this fellowship, particularly the principles of Christian unity, cooperation and equality. Its purpose is to maintain conditions under which it can, as a presbyter, demonstrate these principles and subsequent development.

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Prerogative

The prerogative of this corporation shall be the objects and purposes thereof, which are as follows:

1. To preach the gospel and further the cause of the Kingdom of God in the United States of America and foreign lands.
2. To promote and maintain churches and missions in the state of California, Hawaii and Nevada, to provide fellowship and means of cooperation between churches of similar faiths and doctrines, and to promote, establish and maintain the District, which shall be self-governing insofar as same does not conflict with the objects and purposes of this organization, subject to the jurisdiction and control of this corporation.
3. The District Board shall have the power to enter into agreements for the merger of other churches into the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Incorporated.
4. To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression within the limits of its own statement of faith and doctrine, among its own churches, ministers and members.
5. To ordain, license and otherwise qualify ministers to preach the gospel and provide credentials for the same.
6. To establish and maintain Bible and training schools, inaugurate and maintain charitable institutions, such as homes for the aged, rest home for ministers and missionaries, orphanages and kindred institutions.
7. To own, operate and maintain such printing and publishing plants as may, in the opinion of the District Board, be necessary to print and publish Bibles, books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other religious literature as may be required for its own use and to sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of same in the furtherance of the work of said organization; without pecuniary profits to any member of said corporation.
8. To buy, rent, acquire by gift or otherwise, and to own, operate, maintain and use, such real estate, personal and mixed property as shall be necessary for the maintenance, operation and carrying on of the business of the corporation; and to lease, sub-rent, sell, assign, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of said properties upon such terms and conditions and at such times as, in the opinion of the District Board, may be advantageous to the interest of the corporation.
9. To borrow money for the purpose of purchasing such real estate, personal and mixed property as, in the opinion of the District Board, may be necessary to properly and adequately carry on the objects and purposes of the corporation business and undertakings, and to execute notes, deeds of trust, mortgages, and other evidences of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation, for the repayment thereof; and to satisfy and release notes, deeds of trust, mortgages, and other evidences of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation.
10. To maintain such relations with local, state, federal and foreign governments as may be necessary for the successful accomplishment of the purposes of the organization, and for the welfare of the churches, ministers and members thereof.
11. To engage such employees as may be necessary to perform the duties involved in carrying on the corporation business.
12. To make bylaws for the government of the corporation, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the state of California, the United States, other states or foreign countries; and to alter, revise and amend the same at will.

ARTICLE III

Bylaws

1. The Resolutions Committee may submit any alteration, amendment, repeal or addition to the bylaws that it may deem proper, to the vote of any District Convention of the organization, lawfully assembled, and if favorably passed upon by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, such alteration, amendment, repeal or addition shall become a part thereof.
2. All bylaws of this organization shall conform to the constitution and charter thereof, and to the laws of the state of California, the United States, other states and foreign countries in which it may operate, and shall be null and void insofar as they fail to do so but not otherwise.
3. The constitution shall not be altered, amended, repealed or added to except by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of a duly called District Convention business session of record.

ARTICLE IV

Form of Government

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

ARTICLE V

FAITH AND DOCTRINE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, INC.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

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

1. The Scriptures

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

2. The Godhead

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

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

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

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

3. Man: His Fall and Redemption

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

4. Salvation

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

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

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

5. The Church

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

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

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

6. Ministry

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

7. Water Baptism

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

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

8. Baptism of the Holy Ghost

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

9. Sanctification

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

10. Lord's Supper

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

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

11. Foot Washing

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

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Resurrection of the Just

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

14. Setting a Time for the Lord's Return

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

15. The Coming of the Lord

We believe the Bible presents the coming of Christ as personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial. We further contend that this position alone admonishes watchfulness, incites holy living, prevents spiritual declension and provides maximum incentive and motive for urgency and zeal in evangelizing the unsaved. As demonic deception and Satanic darkness deepens, we urge our ministers to maintain and proclaim this doctrinal viewpoint as the "blessed hope" of the Church.

Furthermore, we recommend that should any of our preachers hold to the mid- or post-tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected.

16. Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of hearing the gospel or of repentance (Hebrews 9:27). The lake of fire is literal (Revelation 19:20). The terms "eternal" and "everlasting" used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned (Matthew 24:41-46) in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence, as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

17. Tithes

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

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

ARTICLE VI

Relationship

SECTION 1. The Central California District is a part of, and in fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God, an incorporated body with headquarters at Joplin, Missouri, and shall be entitled to representation at the conventions of the general assembly, through its ordained and licensed ministers, and by individuals sent by the local churches as delegates. It shall have the privilege of calling on the General Presbyters or Directors or other General Officers for ministerial help, executive counsel and cooperation from time to time as the needs of the District require.

SECTION 2. The District shall assist the General Office in furthering the missions work of the church. Its ministers are encouraged to contribute to the support of the General Office, and to take an active interest in our official publication, *The Pentecostal Messenger*.

SECTION 3. All ordained and licensed ministers, and exhorters, and the companions of aforementioned ministers, one (1) full time assistant/associate pastor, and two (2) delegates per fifty (50) or fraction thereof in average Sunday Morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Church Report, and the surviving companion of a deceased minister who is properly qualified by the District Bylaws, shall form the constituency of each District Convention.

SECTION 4. Ministers wishing to transfer their membership to another District may be given a letter of recommendation, signed by the Secretary and the Bishop, provided they are in good standing. Ministers of other Districts wishing to become members of this District will be received upon presentation of the proper credentials, with a letter of recommendation signed by the Secretary and the Bishop of the District of which he/she is a member, said letter to be filed with our Secretary within thirty (30) days of date of issue.

SECTION 5. Relation to War, Whereas, We believe that our government is ordained of God; and

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

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

ARTICLE VII

District Convention

SECTION 1. The District Convention shall convene annually, the date and place to be determined by the District Board.

SECTION 2. Special business sessions of the District may be called if agreed to by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the District Board.

SECTION 3. In the event of the death, incapacity or the resignation of the District Bishop, the District Secretary-Treasurer shall call a special session of the District to convene in thirty (30) days for the purpose of filling the office for the un-expired term. Should said vacancy occur within ninety (90) days prior to the District Convention, a special session shall not be called.

SECTION 4. The District Presbyter shall be designated as the Assistant District Bishop. In the event that the District Bishop is incapacitated, the Assistant Bishop shall function as Bishop on an interim basis.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Amendments to the bylaws may be made at any convention of the District by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present.

ARTICLE IX

Ministerial Relations

SECTION 1. Our ministers are privileged to use the services of ministers of other churches of like faith as evangelists only, subject to the approval of the District office. Any pastor or evangelist of the Pentecostal Church of God, is privileged to labor in other churches when he/she deems it wise to do so for the up-building of the cause in his or her District, providing he or she does not lend the effort to a neighboring antagonistic assembly or church, thereby injuring the Pentecostal Church of God congregation in the community. The aforementioned minister must first notify the local Pentecostal Church of God pastor of his/her intentions and secure the pastor's good will.

SECTION 2. In order to be eligible to pastor a church in the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, ministers must have been in our fellowship (Central California District, as well as any other District) for at least sixty (60) days.

No minister shall be allowed to try out for a church if he/she is not faithful in supporting the local church where he/she is a member, and is not faithful to support the local, sectional and District programs. It shall be the responsibility of the Sectional Presbyter, in whose section a tryout is requested, to contact the pastor where the prospective try-out's membership is held for a recommendation from his/her pastor. In the event the prospective tryout is dissatisfied with the recommendation, and/or lack of same, he/she shall have the right to appeal to the District Board.

In order to be eligible to try out for a pastorate, all ministers must hold credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God. No novice or layman shall be placed in charge of a church except upon the approval of the District Bishop.

SECTION 3. Our ministers shall cultivate a mutual fellowship and work in harmony. In towns of 10,000 population or less, it shall be deemed inadvisable for any of our ministers to start a new assembly where a Pentecostal Church of God congregation already exists, unless sanctioned by the District Bishop and the pastor of the local church. Neither shall our pastors or evangelists lend themselves to any disgruntled element in any of our churches for the purpose of deposing the current pastor, or causing dissension and strife. Persons doing such things are subject to drastic discipline.

(a) No new church shall be started within two (2) miles of an existing Pentecostal Church of God without the approval of the District Board.

SECTION 4. Ministers shall not interfere with others who may have charge of a mission or church, whether it is by going in without the consent of the one in charge or by corresponding with the members of the church, to affect the influence of the leader. All inquiries or correspondence which concerns the church, such as visiting the field, conducting meetings, etc., should be addressed to the pastor, or where there is no pastor, such correspondence should be addressed to the church secretary.

SECTION 5. Any Pastor, Minister, church officer or any other entity found to be conspiring or part to filing a lawsuit jeopardizing the interest or assets of the CCPCG will forfeit their credential and/or position in the local church, at the discretion of the District Board.

ARTICLE X

Discipline

SECTION 1. All charges against a minister shall be in writing over the signature of at least two (2) accusers, in triplicate, one (1) copy to be filed with the District Bishop, one (1) with the accuser, and one to be sent by the District Bishop to the defendant. The District Bishop shall select a suitable place and a convenient time, not less than ten (10) days in advance, for the hearing of the charges.

SECTION 2. When charges have been brought against a minister, the District Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend their credentials until such time as the charges shall be acted upon.

SECTION 3. A court of inquiry shall hear and pass upon all such charges so made. Said court shall consist of the District Executive Committee and such Sectional Presbyters as may be present. If not satisfied with the decision of said court, the accused may appeal to the next meeting of the District Convention, whose decision, except in the case of ordained ministers, shall be final. In cases involving ordained ministers, the decision may be appealed to the General Executive Board of the Pentecostal Church of God, and their decision shall be final.

The accused shall be considered innocent until proven guilty. Such decisions shall be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

SECTION 4. No question shall be asked, nor any evidence submitted at the hearing, unless these questions and this evidence have a direct bearing on the charges already filed. It is the explicit duty of the chairman to enforce this procedure.

SECTION 5. If the defendant confesses and truly repents, and shows a contrite heart, he should be given reasonable consideration and leniency, and if possible, full restoration should be made after a suitable and proper probationary period.

SECTION 6. If the charges are against the District Bishop, the procedure shall be the same, except that the District Secretary shall act as chairman of the inquiry.

SECTION 7. If the charges are proven true, and of sufficient serious nature, the District Board shall be empowered to permanently drop the accused from the ministerial list, or to discipline them as they shall deem it necessary.

SECTION 8. If the charges against any minister fail to be sustained, then the motives of the accusers may be examined; and if the accusers or witnesses are found to be untrue and malicious, then they shall be deemed guilty of malicious slander, trouble-making and causing division and may be disciplined, even to the extent of removing their names from the ministerial list, if considered of sufficient import.

SECTION 9. A person who has once been tried and proven innocent, or who has repented and made restitution, shall not be tried the second time for the same offense. Any person or persons causing dissension or division by referring to those former charges, either in writing, or by word of mouth, shall be liable to discipline, drastic if necessary. "Where there is no tale-bearer, strife ceases" (Proverbs 26:20).

SECTION 10. Dismissal and Restoration

(a) It shall be left to the discretion of the Court of Inquiry as to whether the circumstances of the case call for a minister's suspension with restoration, or if he shall be dismissed without restoration. In the event restoration is not feasible or fails, the minister shall be listed as having been dropped.

(b) Restoration: When it has been determined, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the District Board or Court of Inquiry that there is cause for disciplinary action as a result of a violation of the Pentecostal Church of God principles as set forth in District and General Bylaws; it shall then be the responsibility of the District Board to determine a program of restoration, if deemed feasible. Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, the following provision for restoration shall apply:

(1) Period of time. The period of restoration shall not be less than one (1) year.

(2) Procedure and Requirements. The District Board, in determining the specific requirements of restoration for the individual Minister, shall use the following procedure.

(a) Suspension. The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of restoration and his fellowship card shall be held at the District Office. The extent to which he may be permitted to minister, if any, shall first be determined by the Court of Inquiry, but may, after a period of restoration, be amended by the District Board. Certain offenses may not require complete cessation of ministerial activities, although some restrictions or limitations may be imposed.

(b) Conditions. The minister must remain a member of the District during the restoration period, unless the District Board approves other arrangements. His name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster while his credentials are in a state of suspension. In the event his ministerial activity has been suspended, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor designated by the District Bishop.

(c) Reports. The minister and his/her supervising pastor must submit quarterly reports to the District Bishop.

(d) Completion of Restoration. When the restoration period is satisfactorily completed, the minister shall be considered in good standing and his status restored.

(e) Transfer. The restoration record shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another District for administrative purposes only.

(c) Eligibility requirements.

(1) Previous Dismissal. A minister who has been dismissed or has surrendered his credentials, who shows repentance and indicates his desire for reinstatement, shall, upon obtaining the approval of the District Board enter the appropriate restoration program as prescribed herein; with the provision that he/she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements of the program have been satisfactorily completed.

(2) In the event a minister has a record of prior violation(s) necessitating disciplinary action, permission for restoration shall be granted only by the District Board.

(d) Right of Appeal. If a disciplined minister desires to appeal the decision rendered by the District Board, his/her request must be filed with the District Bishop and with the General Secretary within thirty (30) days. Said appeal shall be considered first by the National Board of Appeals, comprised of the General Bishop, General Secretary and the Assistant General Bishops. The recommendation of the National Board of Appeals shall be submitted to the General Board, which shall have the right to accept the report or grant further review. The decision of the General Board shall be final.

(e) Each church will have, as part of their structure, a restoration process to aid its pastors and their families should there be a time of personal crisis. In addition, the District Executive Committee will be empowered to ensure that such pastors are accountable to this process. The District shall recommend the established process.

ARTICLE XI

Divorce and Remarriage

SECTION 1. When divorce and remarriage has taken place previous to conversion, the matter is left strictly to the individuals and the Lord (1 John 1:7, 9; 2:1, 2; compare with Hebrews 2:14-16; 6:17-20).

SECTION 2. (a) No divorced and remarried Christian shall be granted credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God except in the following cases:

(1) The divorce and remarriage occurred prior to the first experience of salvation.

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

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

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

(c) When an applicant seeking credentials has been divorced, and their application indicates the cause of their divorce was due to the act of adultery by their ex-spouse, a certified letter shall be sent to the ex-spouse giving them the option to respond.

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

**PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT, INC.**

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Business and Election

SECTION 1. Order of business shall be as follows:

Appointment of Registration Committee
Appointment of Entertainment Committee
Appointment of Program Committee
Appointment of Publicity Committee
Appointment of Rules of Order Committee
Appointment of Evangelists Committee
Appointment of Resolutions Committee
Appointment of Auditing Committee
Appointment of Memorial Committee
Appointment of Credentials Committee
Report of District Presbyter or director
Report of District Secretary-Treasurer
Report of District Bishop
Report of Rules of Order Committee
Report of Registration Committee
Report of Finance Committee
Report of Resolutions Committee
Election of Officers
Report of Memorial Committee
Ordination Service
Adjournment

SECTION 2. Business sessions shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. The convention in session reserves the right to suspend the bylaws when necessary, provided such action is by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

SECTION 3. Recommended Standing Rules of Order for District Convention.

All business of the convention shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall serve as a reference text. However, in order to facilitate and expedite the business of the convention, we submit the following rules of order:

Delegation.

The voting constituency shall consist of all officers of the District; ordained and licensed ministers and those licensed to exhort, and their companions who have an experience of salvation, and are registered, and Sectional Youth Director's and Sectional Women's Ministries Leaders; the surviving companion of a deceased minister who is properly qualified by the District Bylaws and two (2) delegates per fifty (50) or fraction thereof in average Sunday morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Local Church Report. Delegates must be members of said local church and at least eighteen (18) years of age. Each delegate shall present his/her letter of designation from the church he/she represents to the Registrar of the convention.

Seating the Constituency.

The voting constituency shall be properly seated and counted (other than hearing some reports) before the business session begins, and shall occupy those seat rows designated by the chairman.

Parliamentarians and Timekeeper.

The chair shall appoint a committee of three (3) members who shall serve as parliamentarians. This committee shall decide any question that arises relative to parliamentary procedure. A Timekeeper, or keepers,

shall be appointed by the chair. His responsibility shall be to accurately call time when the limits of discussion have been reached.

Resolutions.

All resolutions shall be processed by the Resolutions Committee before presentation to the convention. All resolutions shall be sent to the District Office at least 30 days prior to convention. One week prior, all ministers should receive a copy of the resolutions.

No motion from the floor shall be entertained that proposes to amend the constitution and bylaws that has not been processed by the Resolutions Committee.

All resolutions that seek to change the Bylaws, affecting an elected office, shall be automatically voted on by secret ballot.

All District Convention resolutions and/or motions dealing with finance, submitted by any entities other than standing committees, shall be given to a committee appointed by the District Bishop for research as to proper procedure prior to coming to the convention floor. Said resolutions must be submitted to the District Office no later than January 1st and are to be presented to and reviewed by the District Board at their February meeting.

Discussion.

Persons desiring to speak shall first rise, address the chair and wait to be recognized. No person shall speak more than three (3) times on any given item of business, and shall speak only on the subject under discussion. The speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes the first time; two (2) minutes the second and one (1) minute the third time. In case of two or more persons desiring recognition at the same time, the chair shall recognize first the one farthest from the chair. No one is entitled to the floor a second time in debate on the same motion as long as there are other members who have not spoken on the subject and desire the floor.

Debate on any one specific item shall be limited to one (1) hour, and the chair shall call for the question at the end of the allotted time.

Recognizing the rights of others to their opinions, we request that no personalities be indulged in from the floor. The chairman shall enforce the ruling, which states that speakers shall speak only on the subject under discussion.

Because sufficient time is allotted to those desiring to speak, we request that no audible expression such as "Amen, that's right," etc., be permitted while another is speaking. And no person shall request the floor while another is speaking, except to raise a privileged question.

Each speaker shall, when discussing any subject, state whether he/she is for or against the issue being presented. When three people have spoken in succession on the same side of the question being debated, the fourth person must speak on the other side of the question. If there is no speaker on the other side, the chair shall call for the question.

The chairman shall extend an opportunity to the author of any resolution or recommendation to speak first in explanation of the intent of his/her legislation. The allotted time shall be three (3) minutes.

The chair shall determine when discussion is sufficient and the question is to be entertained.

Voting.

All officers shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast. All officers shall be voted upon by secret ballot.

Any issue other than balloting for the election of officers may be voted upon by secret ballot at the request of any member of the voting constituency.

In the election of officers, not more than ten (10) ballots (including the nominating ballots) shall be cast upon any group of nominees. In the event that the tenth ballot has reached no election, the nominations shall be reopened and new ballots cast.

The first three (3) ballots shall be nominating ballots. After three ballots have been cast and no election reached, only the two (2) highest names shall be voted upon. Any votes for those other than the two (2) highest shall not be counted in the total votes cast.

No office shall be filled by a vote of acclamation.

In case one (1) nominee of the two (2) highest being considered should withdraw his name after the first electoral ballot, leaving one (1) nominee for consideration, he shall be accorded a yes or no ballot. Otherwise, no office shall be filled by a yes or no vote. Blank ballots shall not be recognized in computing any totals.

To conserve time and furnish a more orderly process, the chairman of the convention shall use tellers and ushers to count the ballots secretly and quickly in an adjoining area, then report their findings to the chairman and he to the convention.

Additionally.

All matters coming before the District Convention shall be decided by a majority vote, except those requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote as set forth in the District Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 4. The voting constituency shall consist of all fully accredited ministers, ordained, licensed, exhorters, and the companions of the aforementioned ministers, and duly qualified and registered delegates from affiliated churches. The voting constituency shall be segregated at the business session of the convention.

(a) All ministers who are not current in tithe, bi-vocational assessments and credential fees at General Headquarters are not eligible to vote in the District Convention. A general purpose notice will be placed in the Convention mail out, reminding all ministers to check their tithing and credential records both in District Office and General Office prior to Convention. All ministerial dues and assessments must be current at the time of Convention registration. Those that fail to be current will not be allowed to register in the Convention."

(b) The surviving companion of a minister, who is in good standing at the time of his/her decease, who faithfully attends, supports and is in good standing in a Pentecostal Church of God in Central California shall be accorded full voting membership in all district business sessions for as long as their Christian experience remains without question and they remain unmarried.

ARTICLE II

Officers and Qualifications

SECTION 1. The executive officers of the Central California District, Inc., shall consist of a District Bishop, who shall also be the president of the corporation; a District Presbyter; a District Secretary-Treasurer, a Sectional Presbyter from each section and the District Youth Director. These officers shall form the Credentials Committee and the District Board. The Executive Committee shall consist of the District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer and District Presbyter.

SECTION 2. The term of office for the Bishop, Secretary-Treasurer, District Presbyter and Youth Director shall be for four (4) years, after serving one term of two (2) years. All officers shall assume the duties of their respective offices thirty (30) days following the District Convention, except that Sectional Presbyters shall assume office immediately upon their election being ratified by the District Convention.

SECTION 3. Qualifications of Officers

(a) The District Bishop shall be a man of not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, an ordained minister, baptized with the Holy Ghost, with at least seven (7) years experience in the ministry, and shall have been a member of the District at least one (1) year just prior to the election. He shall be required to give all of his time to the work of the District.

(b) The District Presbyter shall be a man of not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, an ordained minister, baptized with the Holy Ghost, with at least seven (7) years experience in the ministry, and shall have been a member of the District at least one (1) year just prior to the election. He shall be elected by the District and shall not serve as Sectional Presbyter at the same time. The District Presbyter shall be pastoring a church.

(c) The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be a man of not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, an ordained minister, baptized with the Holy Ghost, with five (5) years experience in the ministry, and shall have been a member of the district for at least one (1) year just prior to the election.

(d) The Sectional Presbyters shall be men who have been ordained three (3) years, with at least five (5) years in the ministry, and at least thirty (30) years of age. They must have been a member of the section for at least six (6) months, and must have been faithful to the section and district meetings for the (6) months just

prior the election, except for an emergency, and must be pastoring a church. To qualify, candidates must be current in both District and General fees and have been so for 90 days.

ARTICLE III

Duties of Officers

SECTION 1. Bishop

(a) He shall serve as chairman of all meetings of the District.

(b) He shall be the supervising head of the District Office during the interim between sessions of the District Convention.

(c) He shall be the general overseer of all the work in the District and perform any other functions usual and customary for presiding officers, or such as may be directed by the District or the Board of Presbyters. He shall be ex officio member of all committees, and joint signer with the secretary-treasurer of all checks, legal documents and minutes of conventions and District Board Meetings.

SECTION 2. District Presbyter

The duties of the District Presbyter shall be to cooperate with and assist the District Bishop, to open new fields and to assist the pastors and evangelists in evangelizing new fields.

SECTION 3. Secretary-Treasurer

(a) He shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed and exhorter ministers and churches in the District fellowship. A private, personal file, on each minister shall be maintained in the district office.

(b) He shall act as secretary of all meetings of the District and the Board of Presbyters.

(c) He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents, to be co-signer with the Bishop on all checks and to perform such functions as are customary, or may be directed by the District or the Board of Presbyters. He shall be considered secretary of all committees and custodian of the District fund, legal documents and records.

(d) He shall keep an accurate record of the receipts and disbursements and conduct work of the office according to the accepted methods of business.

(e) He shall make a register of all deeds, notes and legal documents.

(f) He shall keep an accurate record of the minutes of all District meetings and meetings of the Board of Presbyters, and shall give a report from time to time as may be requested by said board. His books shall be audited annually.

(g) He shall give a complete financial report, in writing, showing all unpaid bills, current expenses, cash receipts, disbursements and balance on hand to each member of the District Board once each quarter.

SECTION 4. Sectional Presbyters

(a) The Sectional Presbyters shall act as trustees of this fellowship and shall have the general oversight of the activities and development of the same during the interim between District Conventions.

(b) The Sectional Presbyters, together with the District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Presbyter and District Youth Director shall constitute the official board of the District. They shall hold a District Board Meeting at the District Office each ninety (90) days following the annual District Convention. The District Bishop may call special meetings of the District Board when he shall deem it necessary. The District Secretary shall send ten (10) days written notice for all District Board Meetings. The decision of the Board shall be final unless reversed by the District in special or regular session.

(c) No member of the District Board or executive committee shall be allowed to remain in any Board session during the time period that a relative appears before the Board for a disciplinary action or moral action, except to offer explanation or clarification, and then be excused from the Board.

(d) The District Board shall have the power to enter into agreements for the merger of other churches into the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Incorporated.

(e) Each presbyter shall act officially on all matters arising in his section, under the direction of the Bishop.

(f) All ministers or churches desiring the assistance of the District Bishop's office shall appeal to the presbyter presiding over their section of the District. Should any minister or church ignore the presbyter of their section and communicate directly with the Bishop's office, such communication shall be referred to the local presbyter for his consideration before the District Bishop takes any action.

(g) No presbyter shall at any time deny a licensed minister in good standing with the Pentecostal Church of God an opportunity to try out for a church unless said church has been presented the opportunity to accept or deny the minister, and then and only then shall a presbyter deny a tryout.

(h) Each Sectional Presbyter is granted the privilege of calling his section together for a fellowship meeting from time to time, and extending an invitation to adjoining sections. He shall be in charge of said meetings, and no special offerings shall be received without the consent of the presbyter.

(i) The schedule for fellowship meetings shall be flexible. If the host church is in revival, it is recommended that the evangelist ministering in that church be engaged as the speaker for the fellowship meeting.

(j) Following each regular or special called District Board Meeting, the sectional presbyter shall be available to share the business of the Board with the ministers of his section. Confidential matters pertaining to individuals shall be excluded.

ARTICLE IV

Nominations and Elections

SECTION 1. All candidates for Bishop and/or District Presbyter shall be nominated by written ballot. All names thus presented shall be balloted upon unless a candidate shall have received a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast. If no majority has been reached when the convention has balloted three (3) times, then the two (2) candidates having the highest number of votes in the third ballot shall be the only nominees further voted upon. A two-thirds (2/3) majority shall be required to elect.

SECTION 2. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the District Convention. The District Board shall present not less than three (3) names to be voted upon for said office except when there is an incumbent. In the event a vacancy should occur for any reason, the District Board is empowered to appoint a suitable candidate to fill the un-expired term.

SECTION 3. Sectional Presbyters shall be elected by the pastors of the section, their companions, one (1) full-time associate or assistant pastor, and one (1) delegate from each church in the section. This election shall be ratified by the District Convention. A two-thirds (2/3) majority shall be required to elect. In the case of a vacancy, the section shall be empowered to elect a successor for the un-expired term, subject to the approval of the District Board. The term of office shall be for two (2) years after serving an initial one (1) year term.

SECTION 4. It is recommended that each section of the Central California District shall have one fellowship meeting each month and one youth fellowship meeting each month, except in months where there are rallies, Bible conferences or conventions, and in said months the fellowship meetings shall have priority over the youth fellowship.

SECTION 5. Absentee ballots presented by duly registered constituents for district convention and /or sectional elections must be accepted by the constituency present at said meeting. Absentee ballots shall be counted in the voting tally during the nominating ballots, and for electoral ballots in which that name applies to one of the two highest names from the third nominating ballot.

ARTICLE V

Ministry

SECTION 1

(a) All applications for ordination, license or exhorter credentials shall be handled by the Sectional Presbyter, and he shall be responsible only for seeing that the application packet is completed properly and that said applicant has proper recommendations from at least two (2) ministers, of which one shall be his/her pastor and said pastor shall provide a letter of recommendation stating the tithing record and faithfulness of said

applicant. All applications for credentials must be in the District office no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the second month prior to any District Board Meeting.

(b) Ministers of other religious bodies desiring credentials, shall present satisfactory recommendation, and shall meet the Credentials Committee before being granted credentials.

(c) Ministers of the Central California District are required to watch their persons and keep themselves groomed as becoming ministers of the gospel.

(d) When not in active ministry, all credentialed ministers shall hold membership in a local Pentecostal Church of God, and shall be faithful to support his or her home church as well as Sectional and District functions. If a credentialed minister feels he/she has good cause to attend a church other than a Pentecostal Church of God, said minister shall apply to the District Board for a determination of cause. If cause is granted, said minister shall pay 50% of their secular tithe to his/her home church and 50% to the District Office. Ministerial dues requirements in Article VI, Section 1, paragraph 'a' shall apply.

SECTION 2. Qualification for Ordination

(a) Persons eligible for ordination shall be men and women of mature experience, competent and able to undertake the responsibility of the full gospel ministry.

(b) Those coming to us for ordination shall give all their time to the ministry.

(c) Ministers must carry license at least two (2) years before ordination, and shall be in active service when applying for ordination. The applicant must have fulfilled at least one (1) full year of full-time ministry; if working on a secular job, must have at least two (2) years experience in an acceptable ministry.

(d) No divorced and remarried Christian shall be granted credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God whose divorce and remarriage situation does not adhere to the only exceptions accepted as stated in Article XI, Section 2 of the Constitution.

(e) A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the District Board present shall be required before any applicant shall be granted credentials and/or any action taken on a minister who is credentialed.

(f) The District Board shall have the discretion to suspend and place on probation or to drop a minister's credentials after proper investigation and inquiry have been pursued and they (the Board) deem there are sufficient grounds for such action.

SECTION 3. Qualification for License

(a) Any person desirous of license, who is baptized with the Holy Ghost and gives evidence through his or her preaching ministry of the call of God and plans to devote his or her entire time to the work of the gospel shall personally bring a properly signed and approved application before the Credentials Committee. Upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of said committee, license shall be granted.

(b) License certificates are renewable on January 1 of each calendar year.

SECTION 4. Qualification for Exhorter License

(a) Any person who has a definite experience of salvation and is baptized with the Holy Ghost, and has been a member in good standing of a Pentecostal Church of God and has attended a local Pentecostal Church of God for a minimum of one (1) year, (an exception can be made at the District Board's discretion,) and feels a definite call to preach the gospel, shall present his/her completed and properly signed application packet to the Credentials Committee. The candidate must have completed the qualifications found in the General Bylaws.

The required books are available from Messenger Publishing House (800-444-4674). Upon approval by said committee, exhorter license will be granted.

(b) Exhorter license will be renewable on January 1 of each calendar year.

(c) Those licensed to exhort shall hold membership in a local Pentecostal Church of God and shall be faithful in their support.

SECTION 5. Uniform Ministerial Credentials

(a) The *Minister's Study Series* for Exhorter, License & Ordination shall be the official study course for ministers of the Pentecostal Church of God, and shall be a mandatory program for credentials for all new ministers and those advancing from exhorter to license and ordination credentials. After completion of each

Minister's Study Series, the District will give the minister a comprehensive test provided by the General (and/or) District office. Said minister must receive a seventy percent (70%) score on the test in order to receive a Certificate of completion. Should said minister fail to achieve a score of at least seventy percent (70%), he/she must review the course and repeat the test until the satisfactory score is achieved. A certificate of completion shall precede acceptance for ordination. Although this is a national program, it shall be processed through the District Office. If the minister has completed equivalent studies, this requirement shall be waived. For ministers transferring to us from another organization, a questionnaire shall be established from this series for exhorter, license and ordination that, at the discretion of the District Credentials Committee, they shall be asked to take at the level of credentials they desire. If passed and everything else is cleared, they shall be granted the desired credentials. If they do not pass, they shall be asked to take the course from whatever level they failed.

(b) EXHORTER: The exhorter credential shall be considered a first step toward ordination. Upon acceptance as an exhorter, by meeting minimum qualifications on the present application, the exhorter shall hold this first step credential for a minimum of one (1) year. During this time he/she may exercise spiritual ministries as his/her gifts may be. The minister and his/her companion, if saved, may be seated as delegates to both the District and General Conventions if he/she is pastoring, in full-time evangelism (received his/her full support from the ministry), fully supported as an assistant pastor or Bible college teacher, current with his/her credentials and properly registered. During the one-year (1) period he/she may complete the first series of Minister's Study Series and complete the reading of the entire Bible, but these must be completed within two (2) years of receiving Exhorter credentials.

After this one-year period, exhorter may meet the Board with an application for advancement to license. He/she must meet the Board for advancement by the end of a two-year period or it shall be determined by the Board if he/she is to retain his/her exhorter credentials. The Board may drop the minister's credentials at their discretion.

For the duration of the exhorter credential, the exhorter shall work under the direct supervision of the pastor of the local Pentecostal Church of God of which he/she is a member, unless the exhorter is pastoring or in full-time evangelistic ministry.

(1) An exhorter shall not be eligible to pastor a church except by permission of the District Executive Committee. Said permission shall not be granted unless the exhorter has completed *Minister's Study Series* number one or has evidence of equivalency, and said exhorter must have proven himself/herself faithful in his/her local church, section and District as exhibited by the reports in his/her file.

(c) LICENSE: The license credential is considered a second step toward the goal of becoming an ordained minister.

Upon acceptance as a licensed minister, by having completed series one of the *Minister's Study Series*, having read the entire Bible and given evidence of definite plans to be active in the ministry, the licensed minister shall carry license for a minimum of two (2) years, during which time he/she must have become active in the ministry, and have completed series two of the *Minister's Study Series* at the time of applying for ordination.

As a licensed minister, he/she is at liberty to exercise his/her gifts as the Spirit leads and the doors open. The minister and his/her companion, if saved, have the privilege as delegates to the District and General Conventions, if his/her credentials are current and properly registered. He/she may meet his/her respective District Board at the end of two (2) years for advancement to ordination.

(d) ORDINATION: Being now ready for the final step toward the goal of ordained ministry, the minister shall meet his/her District Board with an application. It will be necessary to have a certificate of completion of the *Minister's Study Series*, be in the active ministry at the time of applying for ordination and to give clear evidence of his/her intention to remain in the active ministry to qualify. The applicant must have fulfilled at least one (1) full year of full-time ministry; if working on a secular job, must have at least two (2) years experience in an acceptable ministry. No person shall pass through the ordination ceremony without an approval of application for ordination by the General Credentials Committee.

SECTION 6

(a) Any person holding a ministerial position in a Central California District church such as:

- 1) Assistant pastor,
- 2) Associate pastor,

3) Youth pastor,

shall be required to carry a current ministerial credential with the Pentecostal Church of God. If not, said individual must be cleared by the District Executive Committee.

SECTION 7. (a) Applicants for credentials or promotion may be denied, even though all the required criteria is met, if it is deemed that the acceptance of the applicant for other reasons would be detrimental to the well-being of the church as a whole.

SECTION 8. Specialized Ministry License

A specialized ministry license may be granted to those who have an evident commitment to devote one's time to a specialized ministry, such as Discipleship Ministries, music or other full-time ministries as defined by the District Board in conjunction with General Board definitions.

One receiving such credentials must possess the necessary training, either formal or an adequate equivalency (requirement set by the District Board in conformance with General Board policy), to enable him/her to serve the church effectively in these specialized areas of ministry.

The minister holding these specialized credentials shall not be eligible for ordination as long as he/she remains solely in these specialized areas.

In the event the specialized ministers enter into the pulpit ministry, he/she would then be eligible for regular license and proceed to ordination according to the prescribed procedure.

SECTION 9. No minister, on any level of the Pentecostal Church of God, shall be permitted to carry credentials with this organization and belong at the same time to a lodge, secret order or society.

SECTION 10. Any minister or his companion, holding credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God, cannot hold credentials, nor hold any office, in any other church organization or religious fellowship that issues credentials to preach the gospel.

SECTION 11. Discipleship Ministries ministers shall be recognized as full-time ministers and shall pay their tithe to the District, in accordance with our Bylaws.

SECTION 12. The Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, shall recognize all full-time assistant, associate or youth pastors with credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God as ministers of the organization, with all ministers' rights afforded them by the Constitution and Bylaws.

(a) In order to be recognized as active in the ministry, said active ministers are those who derive at least twenty-five percent (25%) of their income from their ministry, and/or give at least twenty-five (25) hours per week to the work of the ministry. This applies to ministers other than full-time evangelists and senior pastors (who are defined by the General Constitution and Bylaws).

SECTION 13. All ministers and active evangelists (except those on gratis status and retired), who are classified bi-vocational, shall be required to fill out and send in an annual report provided them by the District Office. Said report is to be filled out in its entirety, and is to be signed by the bi-vocational minister's pastor before said minister sends the report to the District Office. Failure to adhere to the aforementioned provisions will result in disciplinary action.

SECTION 14. When a request for withdrawal is presented to the District Office and the District Board, and/or the District Executive Committee has knowledge that said request was precipitated by questionable circumstances, withdrawal may not be granted until the question, which precipitated the withdrawal request, has been addressed to the satisfaction of the District Board.

SECTION 15. When a previous credentialed applicant reapplies for reinstatement, a letter/questionnaire shall be requested from the former pastor at the time the credentials were surrendered or dropped.

ARTICLE VI

Finance

SECTION 1. Finance

(a) All active ministers shall pay their ministerial dues (10% of gross income) to the District Office as directed by the District Board.

(b) The Office of District Bishop shall receive twenty-nine percent (29%) of the net District dues fund plus benefits. The Office of District Secretary-Treasurer shall receive twenty-one percent (21%) of the net District

dues fund plus benefits. The Office of District Youth Director shall receive twelve percent (12%) of the net District dues fund plus parsonage and utilities and benefits, which will be in the name of the Central California District.

(c) All bi-vocational ministers who are members of local churches shall pay their tithes to their respective Pentecostal Church of God.

Ministers who attend a local church and pay tithes to the church shall be given a receipt for tithes paid with a duplicate sent to the District Office for their record.

(d) The tithe from all full time evangelists on the field who earn seventy percent (70%) of his/her income from evangelizing, shall be submitted to their District Office with fifty percent (50%) being retained in the District and fifty percent (50%) being sent by the District to the General Home Missions-Evangelism Department. All evangelists from other organizations, or independents, shall be encouraged to pay fifty percent (50%) of their tithes from that revival to the District Office of the Pentecostal Church of God in the District in which they are laboring.

(e) All funds received from fellowship offerings or derived from the section shall be retained in the section and said funds disbursed under the direction of the Sectional Presbyter.

(f) Each presbyter is to be paid twenty dollars (\$20.00) per Board meeting, unless his expenses exceed that amount; if so, the expenses shall be paid. In addition to this he will receive for mileage "according to national average."

(g) When a District minister of the Central California District has lapsed into arrears with his or her dues, bi-vocational assessments or credential fees for a period of sixty (60) days, the District Secretary shall write said minister a letter of reminder.

(h) In the event a minister receives a 60-day letter of arrears and has not responded in thirty (30) days or brought his/her account current, the District Secretary-Treasurer shall send a registered letter to have said minister meet the District Board at the next scheduled meeting. If said minister fails to keep the appointment, he/she shall be automatically dropped with no further notice.

(i) In the event a minister has been called before the Board for being in arrears twice within a twelve month period and he/she falls into arrears again so much so that another appointment to meet the Board would be necessary, that minister will be automatically dropped without further notice.

(j) The District shall pay a minimum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per month support shall be sent to Messenger College.

(k) BE IT RESOLVED that the District establish a Scholarship Fund for Messenger College. This endowment fund shall be funded from gifts from local churches and/or individuals. Recipients of this scholarship fund shall be selected at the Annual March District Board Meeting, upon recommendation of Pastor and Sectional Presbyter. Selection shall be based on scholastic achievement, participation in local church, section and district activities, and a resident of the Central California District.

(l) The Central California District shall provide fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500.00) for the District Bishop's expenses to the General Convention and twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.00) for the District Secretary-Treasurer; these funds shall be taken from the appropriate District funds.

(m) The District Bishop and District Secretary-Treasurer shall receive a thirty (30) day annual vacation with pay. Said vacations are to be taken at their own convenience.

(n) Vacation money in addition to salaries shall be taken from the general fund for the District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer and the District Youth Director to be calculated from District Convention to District Convention. This amount shall not be less than twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.00) for the District Bishop and one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for the District Secretary-Treasurer and District Youth Director. The District Board is empowered to adjust this, as the economy requires.

(o) The District books shall be closed December 31 of each year and audited in a manner approved by the District Board. A complete up-to-date financial statement from the District Office shall be compiled into both internal and external reports separately as a Convention Report and a Generally Accepted Accounting Procedure (GAAP) Report.

(p) Medical and hospitalization insurance shall be provided for the District Bishop and District Secretary-Treasurer.

(q) The local church where a District meeting is held shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred as a result of entertaining said meeting.

(r) The personal financial records of all ministers are to be kept in a confidential file by the District Secretary-Treasurer and can be reviewed by the Sectional Presbyters, under the supervision of a member of the Executive Committee.

(s) The local pastor shall at all times maintain strict separation of his personal finances from that of the local church. He shall be responsible for his personal bills and pay them from his personal finances.

(t) Due to spiraling costs of medical care, it is recommended that every local church in the Central California District provide hospitalization insurance for their pastor and family; provided the finances are available.

(u) All District Convention resolutions and/or motions dealing with finance, submitted by any entities other than standing committees, shall be given to a committee appointed by the District Bishop for research as to proper procedure prior to coming to the convention floor. Said resolutions must be submitted to the District Office no later than January first, and are to be presented to and reviewed by the District Board at the District Board meeting in February.

SECTION 2. Ministerial Benefit

(1) Each minister, ordained and licensed, and each person licensed to exhort, shall participate financially for the maintenance of the General Offices by contributing the sum of \$30.00 each month, two dollars of which shall go to support Messenger College.

(2) Included in the monthly contributions shall be the following:

(a) The usual application or renewal fee for credentials.

(b) The subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger*.

(3) Where both husband and wife are ministers, either ordained or licensed, or licensed to exhort, the following option is available: One minister may pay \$30.00 monthly, which is the usual application or renewal fee for ministers, and the other may pay \$15.00 monthly. The latter fee does not include the subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger* in (b) above and should be paid at the time of application for credentials or on January first of each calendar year for the renewal of credentials.

(4) The following special provisions are hereby set forth:

When a minister reaches the age of seventy (70) and has carried ordination with the Pentecostal Church of God for twenty (20) years, or more, his credential fees and *The Pentecostal Messenger* subscription will be granted, courtesy of the General Office, for life, as long as said minister remains in good standing with his District.

(5) To assist the General Office and the District Office in the bookkeeping procedures necessitated by such an extensive program, each minister is encouraged, when possible, to pay his respective fees in one annual sum, or in semi-annual or quarterly payments. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

(6) If said fees are not paid for a period of ninety (90) days, at the discretion of the minister's District Board, the ministerial credentials may be voided, upon written notice.

SECTION 3

(a) All licensed and ordained ministers, together with those licensed to exhort, who are deriving their support from secular work, shall be assessed the sum of \$20.00 per month. Said assessment shall be sent to the District Office, 50% of which would be placed in the general fund and 50% placed in the tithe fund. Ministers failing to comply shall forfeit their right to vote in any District or sectional business meeting or convention.

(b) All bi-vocational, retired ministers (no longer deriving their livelihood from the ministry), who meet the GRATIS STATUS requirements of the General Constitution and Bylaws, will be granted GRATIS STATUS as to their bi-vocational assessments.

(c) The District Board shall have the prerogative of granting relief from bi-vocational assessments in hardship cases.

SECTION 4. Church Loans

(a) Ministers desiring to build new works or to obtain emergency funds to assist an established work may make application for a loan to the District Board.

(b) Money loaned for these purposes shall be paid back by term agreed to at time of loan.

(c) This money shall be secured by a note made payable to the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Inc. Said note shall be signed by the pastor and the trustees of the church making the loan, and shall be properly drawn, signed, notarized and secured, then sent to the District Office before money is paid to the church.

(d) When a request is made for the District to approve a loan, the following information is necessary:

- 1) a resolution from the church,
- 2) the financial records for the previous three (3) years,
- 3) the attendance records for the previous three (3) years.

(e) Due to problems in regards to Home Missions money, if there has been no activity for one (1) year concerning repayment, a District Official, along with the Sectional Presbyter, shall meet with the *pastor of the church first, and then meet with the church.*

SECTION 5. Benevolent Ministries Fund

The Central California District shall establish a "Benevolent Ministries Fund." Members in this ministry are to pledge a monthly gift of ten dollars (\$10.00). Said money will be disbursed to help our ministers and their widows in their time of dire need. This fund will be disbursed by the District Executive Committee and administered by the District Board.

SECTION 6. First Fruit Program

(a) Each church affiliated with the Central California District is encouraged to support General and District Ministries with "First Fruits", (10%) of their undesignated income. (Designated income is defined as monies received for salaries, missions, etc.) Each church's "First Fruits" shall be sent to the District Office and the District Office will forward one half of the local Churches' contributions to the General Office.

(b) The District shall tith 10% to the General Office from the 38% of the District tithe fund not designated to the District salaries.

(c) The District shall tith 10% to the General Home Missions Department from the District's portion (50%) of the 'First Fruits' program.

ARTICLE VII

Publications

SECTION 1. Each ordained and licensed minister and exhorter (except when husband and wife are both ministers), will be put on the subscription list of the general publication, *The Pentecostal Messenger*, for the life of their fellowship certificate or license.

SECTION 2. The District Office shall have our Bylaws revised to date and printed in book form within ninety (90) days after the convention date.

ARTICLE VIII

Local Churches

SECTION 1. Local churches shall elect their own pastors and officers, and shall maintain their own form of government, constitution and bylaws, which shall not conflict with those of the District or the General organization. When there is no conflict between the aforementioned constitution and bylaws, no District Official shall interfere with the self-governing of said local church.

SECTION 2. (a) Any church needing the advice of an attorney must first contact the District Office, in order that the District officials may look into the matter, and if need be, to confer with the attorney retained by the District, seeking his counsel in the matter.

(b) The local church shall recognize the right of the District to establish and enforce Scriptural teaching and conduct, and to disciple unscriptural teaching and doctrine. In case of division, church property shall belong to the members holding to the original articles of faith, regardless of majority. When in need of counsel or advice, the church may appeal to the Sectional Presbyter for help.

SECTION 3. When the active membership (active being determined by the requirements of membership as stated on the membership card/ application. If no such card exists, the card that is available from the District Office shall establish the definition of a local church) is less than twelve (12) ACTIVE members, the District Board, by and through its proper officials, are authorized, when they deem it necessary, to place the church under District control.

SECTION 4. (a) If any pastor, official, member or any other person or persons of any congregation should be found to be conspiring, plotting or planning in any manner against the welfare of the Pentecostal Church of God for the purpose of gaining control of any real estate or personal property of any congregation, or of the Pentecostal Church of God, or any situation should arise that might require prompt and definite action; then, in that event, the General Organization and/or the District Organization shall, and are authorized and directed by and through their proper officials, to promptly take possession of said property or properties in the name of the Pentecostal Church of God, or the Central California District, Inc., and to retain possession thereof until such emergency has passed.

(b) When adverse conditions exist in a local church, and it is brought to the attention of the District Bishop, then an investigation shall be made and effective measures taken if necessary, by the Executive Committee to resolve the matter.

SECTION 5. (a) In order to maintain a balanced point of view in our churches, between the ministry and the laity, all business meetings of the local churches shall be presided over by the pastor, presbyter or some District official. No church policy concerning church bylaws, governmental procedures, finances, etc., shall be changed during the absence of a pastor. They cannot be changed without a duly called church business meeting. During the interim between pastors there shall be no church board meetings or business meetings held without the attendance and/or consent of the Sectional Presbyter or a member of the District Executive Committee. The District Executive Committee shall nullify any action taken by a church board that does not fulfill the requirements of Section 5.

(b) In the event that a local church is unable to reach a pastoral election after the third business meeting called for said purpose, the District Executive Committee shall be empowered to appoint a pastor for a one (1) year term.

SECTION 6. Each officially confirmed church is entitled to seat two (2) delegates per fifty (50) or fraction thereof in average Sunday morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Local Church Report, to the annual convention. Such delegates shall bring with them a letter appointing them as a delegate from the local church.

(a) In order to disciple our church membership in loyalty to the local congregation, when they leave the fellowship of a local church, the member is to be instructed to ask for a letter of transfer of membership. When a visitor asks for membership or is approached and offered membership, their former membership should be ascertained and a respectful communication, signed by the receiving pastor and prospective member, be sent to the former pastor and church board.

SECTION 7. In order for an incumbent pastor to be retained, a simple majority vote of fifty-one percent (51%) is required.

SECTION 8. In the event there is a call for the removal from office of duly elected pastor of the church it will require a two-thirds 2/3 vote of the active (as prescribed by the local church bylaw) membership to sustain the recall.

SECTION 9. (a) When a pastor resigns or there is a pastoral vacancy, the inquiry time for prospective pastors shall be no less than fourteen (14) days, unless there is closure by church consensus (only the church can shorten this 14 day time period). All resumes and inquiries that meet District qualifications for pastorate must be submitted to the local pulpit committee or church board for consideration.

(b) When a pastor resigns, it is recommended that thirty (30) days written notice be given. Such resignations shall be written in triplicate, one (1) copy given to the church, one (1) to the Sectional Presbyter, and one (1)

sent to the District Office. When a pastor is asked to resign, he should be given at least thirty (30) days written notice, and copies of the letter filed with the Sectional Presbyter and the District Office.

(c) When a pastor resigns, the administrative responsibility for said church shall be immediately transferred to the local presbyter and the District Executive Committee.

(d) In the event of a vacancy in the pastorate of any of our churches, the outgoing pastor, with the secretary of the church, shall be responsible to file with the District Office the following information: indebtedness of the church, including loans, amounts of monthly payments, delinquent payments or other indebtedness, if any, and other pertinent information, within seven (7) days of said pastor's announced resignation or announced intention to resign, in order to receive the customary pastoral financial support stipulated in the following paragraph, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each outgoing pastor shall be required to make accessible all church keys and all financial records and check books to the Sectional Presbyter within the same seven (7) day time period, in order to receive the support referenced above

(e) The resigning pastor shall continue to receive the customary pastoral financial support for thirty (30) days following his/her resignation. During this thirty-day period, the resigning pastor shall not unduly influence the election of his/her replacement, and also during this period, he/she shall have the right to be out of town for the purpose of tryouts and relocation. However, when he/she is in town, they shall be available for pastoral duties whenever needed and/or requested. This policy shall apply unless an amenable agreement has been made between the church and the resigning pastor.

(f) Any accredited minister of the Pentecostal Church of God desiring to try out for any church in the Central California District must contact the Sectional Presbyter. In the event a presbyter desires to try out for a church in his section, he shall so state to the District Bishop or District Presbyter, and it shall be the responsibility of the Bishop or District Presbyter to conduct or oversee said election. Any minister contacting a local church board shall forfeit his right to try out for said church.

(g) Any accredited minister of the Pentecostal Church of God requesting a transfer and/or letter of recommendation to try out for a church shall not be granted said request unless all dues and assessments, both District and General, are current and have been so for at least ninety (90) days prior to said clearance being given. Ministers from other Districts requesting a try-out in the Central California District shall be required to meet the same criteria as that which Central California District ministers must meet.

(h) All church elections for the purpose of electing a new pastor shall be presided over by the Sectional Presbyter or another District Official. No resigning pastor will be allowed to conduct tryouts or elections of his/her replacement.

(i) Any church requesting a minister to try out for pastor shall be required to pay his expense from and to his place of residence.

(j) When any pastor resigns his/her position as pastor, if there is any assistant pastor, his/her position shall be terminated at the same time.

(k) Where there is an increasing demand for staff members in our local churches, any pastor interested in acquiring a prospective staff member that attends another church shall first contact the prospective worker's pastor concerning the worker's status and qualifications, and the possibility of acquiring his/her services; said procedure will be followed to prevent any misunderstanding among the ministry.

(l) Any local minister active in the local church, with any opportunity to influence the people, shall not be permitted to try out for that local assembly except by permission of the District Executive Committee.

(m) Credentialed ministers shall not be allowed to fill the position of church board member other than that of senior pastor, who is automatically chairman of the board with full voice and vote, or paid associate/assistant pastor at the discretion of the senior pastor.

(n) No local church shall change its name without consideration of Article VIII, Section 15 of the District Bylaws, and first securing written approval of the local church and the District Board. District Board approval on the above name changes will be contingent on updated church bylaws reflecting the name change being sent to the District Office.

SECTION 10. A World Missions program shall be instituted in all of our churches with offerings being received for it. All offerings received for this purpose shall be sent directly to the World Missions office at General Headquarters in Joplin, Missouri.

SECTION 11. The District Office shall furnish membership cards to be signed by the pastor of the church showing the standing of members transferring from one church to another.

SECTION 12. It is recommended that in order to protect the property of the local church, and to keep it from ever falling into other hands, the title shall be taken in the name of the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Inc.

(a) Should above named church cease to exist as a church body, the sale of its property become necessary or advisable, then an effort shall be made to relocate as near as possible to the original location. In the event of this relocation of church proving inadvisable, the sale of such property shall go into the Ready Reserve Fund I. The current Ready Reserve Fund to be renamed "The Emergency Fund".

(b) Be it resolved, that any property that is deeded to the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District that is sold or exchanged for other property, be placed in the name of The Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District. Funds from the sale of all properties are to be placed in accounts with both local church and District officers as signers on the account.

SECTION 13. A Building Supervisory Committee shall be appointed by the District Executive Committee. Said Building Supervisory Committee shall consult with the pastor and church board on building projects in the District. Their function shall be to offer advice and expertise, and whenever possible, to enlist and coordinate the volunteer assistance of craftsmen and laborers to aid the local church in a construction project.

Whenever a church requests the Districts assistance in securing financing for the construction project, said church board shall meet with the District Building Supervisory Committee prior to meeting the District Board for approval of their project and necessary assistance in securing financing.

SECTION 14. In order to collect the necessary data to create a universally accepted GAAP Report: In the month of January each year, the church secretary shall file with the District Office the following information: property value, church, parsonage, etc., mortgage holder, amount of original loan, balance owed, monthly payments, total income and expenses and other pertinent information. Forms to be furnished by the District Office. Each church shall send to the District Office each January a report of their current assets, etc., including current cash in all funds, checking and savings, in order to make a balanced financial statement for loan purposes.

Each local pastor shall be required to submit a yearly report form, provided by the District Office, of all church indebtedness to the District Office, and shall not receive a clearance to try out for another church until said report is filed with the District Office and verified for accuracy.

SECTION 15. All Pentecostal Churches of God shall be identified with the words, Pentecostal Church of God, in a conspicuous place on the premises.

(a) Be it recommended that all forms of advertisement include the name, PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, or the official "logo" of the Pentecostal Church of God.

SECTION 16. In order to comply with California law concerning state compensation insurance coverage of employees by employer, and to protect all our churches and church employers from unpleasant circumstances that might arise from infraction of such laws, all churches of the Central California District shall be required to carry state compensation insurance on the pastor and any employee who is not working under a written contract to exempt them from such insurance.

SECTION 17. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

(a) Be it resolved, that all churches in the Central California District be required to implement an official comprehensive District policy for the procedure, training and certification for preventing and/or recognizing child abuse for all personnel involved in working in our local churches, including paid staff and volunteer workers. Each church must maintain records of training, certification and criminal background checks of all workers. The District Office will provide the approved policy and procedure.

(b) EXISTING MINISTERS

All credentialed ministers of the Central California District shall be required to submit to a criminal background check. The candidate is to be responsible for the required fees.

(c) NEW CREDENTIAL APPLICANTS

Any candidate meeting the District Board for credentials shall be required to submit to a criminal background check. The candidate is to be responsible for the required fees.

ARTICLE IX

HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Home Missions Director

Appointment of officers:

- (a) The District Home Missions Director shall be appointed by the District Bishop and is to be ratified by the District Board to be reviewed annually.
- (b) The District Bishop, the District Home Missions Director, in conjunction with the appropriate Sectional Presbyter, shall be empowered to appoint Sectional Home Missions Directors from each section. These representatives are to be ratified by the District Board and reviewed annually.

Job Description

(a) Investigate and earnestly and prayerfully consider any area of the District in which some special opportunity seems to present itself in the establishing of a new church.

(b) Evaluate any work that has been plagued by consistent and prolonged problems that hinder its growth and progress.

(c) Report to the District Bishop and members of the District Board their evaluations and recommendations for any of the areas or situations investigated.

(d) Evaluate any request from established churches requesting a Home Missions grant or loan, or requesting emergency assistance in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). If the Director deems it necessary, they shall meet with the pastor and/or board of requesting church in order to facilitate the decision-making process. After careful investigation and evaluation of the situation, they shall make recommendation to the District Board. In the event they deem the situation needs attention, they shall report their findings and recommendations to the District Executive Committee.

Policy

(a) In order for any work, newly-formed or otherwise established, to receive financial assistance from Home Missions funds, said church must have followed established procedures in requesting and receiving assistance.

(b) The status of any money expended from Home Missions funds, whether it is to be a grant, a loan and/or terms of said loan, shall be determined on the facts surrounding each individual request for assistance.

Further, no grant or loan, past or present, shall be considered as setting a precedent for any future request for Home Missions assistance

(c) In order to accelerate the retirement of Home Mission loans, a \$2.00 credit will be granted for each \$1.00 donated by the borrower of the loan to a District designated church planting project or a church planting fund. Interest on all loans in existence up to the District Convention in May of 2000 will be discontinued. Churches that have been making regular payments on their Home Missions loans, will receive credit for payments made retroactive to the May 1999 District Convention. Churches that have been supporting designated church planting projects will receive credit retroactive two years from the May 1999 District convention. This proposal will not apply to any loans negotiated after the District convention in May 2000. Any borrower (church) becoming three months in arrears will be contacted by a letter from the District Office notifying Pastor and church board of the delinquent payments. All churches not participating in the 2 for 1 credit program by December 31, 2001, will become ineligible to participate in the program.

Remuneration

Any expenses incurred by the Home Missions Director in the course of their duties shall be reimbursed from the Home Missions funds.

The Director shall be paid the standard mileage fee according to the current IRS regulations for any mileage incurred in the performance of their duties.

Meals, lodging or phone expenses incurred as a result of the performance of committee duties shall be reimbursed to them upon the presentation of receipts for said expenses.

ARTICLE X

Activities

SECTION 1. The Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District shall conduct a District Camp Meeting and a Minister's Seminar each year, with the time left to the discretion of the District Board.

SECTION 2. The Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District shall organize and promote a "Men's Fellowship" for the purpose of creating a great bond of fellowship among the men in our churches, promoting a strong arm of evangelism in the churches, sections and the District.

- (a) The District Kingsmen Director shall be appointed by the District Bishop and is to be ratified by the District Board and reviewed annually.
- (b) The District Bishop, the Kingsmen Director, in conjunction with the appropriate Sectional Presbyter, shall be empowered to appoint Sectional Kingsmen Directors from each section. These representatives are to be ratified by the District Board and reviewed annually.

ARTICLE XI

Discipleship Ministries

SECTION 1. The District Discipleship Ministries Director shall be appointed by the District Bishop and is to be ratified by the District Board and reviewed annually.

SECTION 2. Each church in our District is encouraged to send regular support to the District Discipleship Ministries Department, with a recommended level of at least five dollars (\$5.00) per month from each church.

SECTION 3. There shall be a standing District Board of Discipleship Ministries, to be chaired by the District Director of Discipleship Ministries, and comprised of seven (7) additional members representing: 1) Sunday school and other church school education; 2) Christian day schools; 3) College and other higher education; and 4) the youth department to be represented by the District Youth Director. The members shall be nominated by the District Bishop in conference with the District Director of Discipleship Ministries, and approved by the District Board. The function of this District Board of Discipleship Ministries shall be to plan and present special training seminars for Sunday school teachers, Christian school workers, pastors and other church leaders. This board of Discipleship Ministries shall meet in conjunction with the District Convention and any other District meeting, when necessary.

- (a) Be it resolved that the Discipleship Ministries Committee, in conjunction with the appropriate Sectional Presbyter, be empowered to appoint Sectional Discipleship Ministries Representatives from each section. These representatives are to be ratified by the District Convention.

ARTICLE XII

World Missions

Appointment of Officers

- (a) The District World Missions Director shall be appointed by the District Bishop and is to be ratified by the District Board and reviewed annually.
- (b) The District Bishop, the District World Missions Director, in conjunction with the appropriate Sectional Presbyter, be empowered to appoint Sectional World Missions Directors from each section. These representatives are to be ratified by the District Board and reviewed annually.

Remuneration

Any expenses incurred by the World Missions Director in the course of their duties shall be reimbursed from the World Missions funds.

The Director shall be paid the standard mileage fee according to the current IRS regulations for any mileage incurred in the performance of their duties.

Meals, lodging or phone expenses incurred as a result of the performance of committee duties shall be reimbursed to them upon the presentation of receipts for said expenses.

ARTICLE XIII

Youth Ministries

SECTION 1. *Preamble*

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

WHEREAS, we, as organized individual groups of Pentecostal Church of God Young People, desire a more intimate fellowship and interest which organizing with other individual groups will supply, and desire the encouragement and blessing which is derived by associating with other groups of Pentecostal Church of God Young People; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, organized Pentecostal Church of God Young People's groups of Central California, shall, with mutual agreement, enter into a covenant of service for our Lord by organizing ourselves into a district association.

SECTION 2. *Name and Motto*

This organization shall be known as the PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD YOUTH MINISTRIES OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT.

SECTION 3. *Purpose*

The purpose of the Department of Youth Ministries shall be to encourage one another in the work of the Lord; to develop our talents and abilities as Christian workers through our varied activities in order that souls shall be converted to the Lord Jesus Christ and believers baptized in the Holy Spirit through our work for Him and through our activity and contests to work to promote fellowship among God's people, to promote the Sunday school, church and young people's work of the local churches, and to further the progress of the Department of Youth Ministries.

SECTION 4. *Covenant*

WHEREAS, God is calling the youth of the land to a personal experience of salvation, through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, and is then baptizing them in the Holy Ghost; and

WHEREAS He is filling their hearts with a passionate love for souls, and with holy fire and zeal for service and sacrifice;

Therefore, we, the Pentecostal Church of God Youth Ministries of the Central California District, do hereby pledge ourselves to a complete commitment to our Lord, and, recognizing the gravity of our times, we hereby unite ourselves to do battle against Satan and his snares, and we will not be found in places of immoral entertainment or exhibition that bring dishonor to the Kingdom of God;

Knowing that Satan will do all he can to hinder us, we will keep ourselves free from all forms of: gambling, tobacco, alcoholic beverages and drugs that are physically and mentally harmful; and we will avoid malicious talk and/or vulgar communications; and we will keep ourselves from the influence of, and personal involvement in witchcraft, astrology and the occult, from types of music which suggest behavior not conducive to wholesome Christianity, and from involvement in premarital, impure and/or unnatural sex; and

Since our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost, we hereby pledge to clothe them with apparel which is neither suggestive nor provocative, but which attracts others to our Lord rather than our persons; and,

We do further agree to cooperate with our ministers and leaders, and with both our General and District officials for the glory of God, and the furtherance of the gospel.

SECTION 5. *Activities and Meetings*

a. One day of each Annual District Convention of the Pentecostal Church of God, shall be set aside as a religious holiday for the Pentecostal Church of God Youth Ministries of the Central California District.

b. Besides the District Business Convention, there shall be District rallies during the year, as the Department of Youth Ministries Executive Committee deems advisable, the time and place to be determined by said committee.

c. There shall be youth camps conducted each year, the time and place to be determined by the Department of Youth Ministries Executive Committee

d. Any expectant mother who attends youth camps, either as a worker or camper, shall sign an affidavit absolving the organization of any liability in the event of any complications regarding that pregnancy. Said affidavit shall be signed by the person that is legally responsible for the individual.

e. The District shall be divided into sections.

f. The activities of the local Department of Youth Ministries group shall be determined by the group.

g. The local Department of Youth Ministries group, where practical, shall encourage and support a Junior Youth Ministries work to be known as the Junior Youth Ministries, for those too young for the Department of Youth Ministries.

h. The local Department of Youth Ministries shall secure the approval of the pastor before visiting any other assembly or rally as a group, and the pastor shall have the privilege of attending all meetings, rallies and Department of Youth Ministries activities.

i. The local group shall be properly chaperoned at all times.

SECTION 6. *Membership*

a. The membership of the Department of Youth Ministries of Central California shall consist of all local groups who have accepted this constitution and have signified by a vote of the members of this local group that they wish to enter by mutual fellowship into the Central California District Department of Youth Ministries provided they are in accord with the doctrine as set forth by the Pentecostal Church of God.

b. Any local group desiring to become a member of the Department of Youth Ministries shall apply to the District Department of Youth Ministries office or Director for membership, and shall be presented a certificate of fellowship at the time the group is accepted for membership, and shall be publicly recognized at the following District Convention.

c. A letter from the District Department of Youth Ministries office shall be sent to all organized Youth Ministries groups, and sent immediately to each group that is set in order. This letter shall set forth the responsibility of the local group to the Department of Youth Ministries program and a statement of their rights and privileges as Youth Ministries Groups.

d. Any local group may withdraw membership by sending a notice of withdrawal to the District Department of Youth Ministries office together with the fellowship certificate.

e. Change of pastor does not affect membership of any local group.

f. Qualifications for membership of the local group shall be upon confession of faith unto salvation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and consistent Christian life. The age limit for Department of Youth Ministries in full fellowship shall be fifteen (15) and thirty-five (35). However, those between the ages of thirteen (13) and fifteen (15) shall be granted membership cards, but not be allowed to vote or hold office.

g. A member in good standing and eligible to vote shall be a member who is faithful to his church and society.

SECTION 7. *Officers*

a. The officers of the Central California District Department of Youth Ministries shall be a Director of Youth Ministries, District Junior Leader and a Sectional Youth Director in each section.

b. The Executive Committee shall consist of the District Director of Youth Ministries, the District Bishop and the District Secretary-Treasurer of the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District.

c. The Sectional Youth Directors Committee shall consist of the District Director of Youth Ministries, all Sectional Youth Directors, the District Junior Leader, the District Coordinator of Campus Missions, the District Young Adults Coordinator, District Bible Quiz Coordinator and the District Christian Pathlighter Commander.

d. The Director must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older to coincide with the General Bylaws, baptized in the Holy Ghost, an ordained minister of not less than five (5) years in the ministry, have been a member of the Pentecostal Church of God for at least three (3) years and a member of the Central California District for at least one (1) year, have an evangelistic message and qualities for leadership of youth and must not be encumbered by a position or anything that would prevent his or her performing the duties of the office.

e. Sectional Youth Directors and Junior Youth Leaders of the sections shall be members of the Pentecostal Church of God, faithful by their attendance and financial support to their local church, baptized in the Holy Ghost, and shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older, and shall have been faithful in their section by their attendance of at least two (2) local sectional meetings. They shall be appointed by the Executive Youth Committee and the Sectional Presbyter with the approval of the local pastor, and approved by the District Board.

f. Local officers shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older and must be members in good standing of the Pentecostal Church of God and Department of Youth Ministries to qualify. The Director must have the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

SECTION 8. *Duties of Officers*

a. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the call of the Director to act on all matters requiring emergency action, the decision to stand in force until ratified or rejected by the District Convention.

(1) The Sectional Youth Directors Committee shall convene no less than three (3) times a year. The time of the meeting shall be in the week preceding the District Board meeting. The committee shall be subject to the call of the Director to review programs, to introduce new programs, and decide on all legislative matters. All actions subject to approval of District Board.

b. Duties of the Director

(1) The Director shall have the responsibility of conducting all Directors' rallies.

(2) The District Director of Youth Ministries shall be a member of the District Board with full voting privileges.

(3) The Director shall appoint the chairman and members of any special meeting.

(4) The Director shall use his or her influence in organizing and inviting new groups into the Department of Youth Ministries and encouraging local groups.

(5) In the event of the absence of the Director from any of his or her duties in a local section, the Sectional Youth Director shall be responsible for filling his or her place.

(6) The Director shall receive a thirty (30) day paid vacation. Said vacation pay shall be that as stated in Article 6, Section 1, Paragraph (1) of the District Bylaws.

c. Duties of the Sectional Youth Directors:

(1) They shall promote all District Department of Youth Ministries programs in their sections and shall distribute all material coming from the District Youth Ministries office.

(2) They shall receive youth offerings at the fellowship meetings and rallies for their support of the District Office.

(3) The Sectional Youth Directors shall follow the guidelines and requests of the District Department of Youth Ministries office as stated in the "Sectional Youth Director's Handbook" and shall not waiver any said responsibilities written therein.

d. Junior Leader of Youth Ministries:

(1) A Junior Leader shall be appointed by the District Department of Youth Ministries Executive Committee and approved by the District Board to promote the Junior program; this is to be a faith ministry. They shall be responsible for Junior activities at conventions and District rallies. They shall keep in contact with Sectional Junior Leaders. Appointment shall be for two (2) years.

(2) An offering shall be sent each month to the District Director of Youth Ministries for office expenses. This offering to be taken at the Junior services of fellowship meetings and rallies.

(3) The Sectional Youth Directors shall be required to attend all the District Central Committee meetings possible.

e. Duties of Junior Sectional Officers:

(1) They shall conduct Junior Youth ministries services at fellowship meetings and rallies, working in harmony and cooperation with Sectional Presbyters or Sectional Youth Directors.

(2) They shall promote contests and have an active interest in the program of the Junior Youth Ministries.

f. Duties of local officers shall be determined by the local group, except in relation to the District Office, as follows:

(1) Officers of the local societies shall be responsible for sending the tithes on all offerings and/or fundraisers received in their Youth Ministries services, as stipulated in Article 9, Section 1, except offerings for the District Youth Director.

(2) The officers of local societies shall notify the District Office immediately upon any change of officers and shall supply any other information requested by the District Office.

SECTION 9. *Business and Elections*

a. Legislative business and elections shall be held only at the annual business convention, and all legislative action and election of officers shall be authentic only when ratified by District Convention.

(1) The Office of the Director of Youth Ministries shall be by appointment by the District Board, after the application process, reviewing recommendations, and conducting interviews. The recommendations shall come from the Sections and youth committee. This appointment must be ratified by the next scheduled District Convention by ballot.

b. The term of office for the Director shall be that as stated in Article 2, Section 2 of the District Bylaws.

(1) Should the office of Director of Youth Ministries become vacant for any reason between convention terms, the District Board shall be empowered to appoint a Director of Youth Ministries to fill the office for the unexpired term of the retiring Director.

c. The Sectional Youth Director's term of office shall be for two (2) years after serving an initial one (1) year term.

d. Each group shall determine elections of local groups.

e. Legislative business and elections of local groups shall be authentic only when approved by the pastor of the local church.

SECTION 10. *Finance*

a. Department of Youth Ministries supplies shall be bought and sold at a profit, the profit to be used in the Department of Youth Ministries work.

b. Offerings shall be taken at all meetings of the sectional rallies, District rallies and District Conventions.

c. All offerings taken at sectional rallies, District rallies and District Conventions shall be used for the District and not for local entertainment unless so designated at the time the offering is taken.

d. Finances shall be distributed as follows:

(1) Profits on supplies and registration fees shall be used for the support of the office.

(2) The offering at rallies shall go for the support of the Director of Youth Ministries.

(3) A Finance Committee shall determine the use of offerings at convention subject to the approval of the convention.

e. In lieu of Sectional Rally offerings, churches will support the annual budget with \$200.00 a year. 50% will be designated for the Youth Director's salary, and 50% for the budget of the Youth Ministry's Office. Individuals may participate in the Youth Department's Partnership Pledge Program for support of the office of the Director of Youth Ministries.

f. The Department of Youth Ministries by a majority vote may obligate itself for a special financial program, subject to approval by a majority vote of the District Convention.

g. Each local group shall determine the finances for that group.

h. Each local church shall support the District Department of Youth Ministries annually with a Two-Hundred-Dollar (\$200.00) Budget Drive offering. The Department of Youth Ministries office may remind each local church not participating in the budget drive of the assessment by letter.

i. The District Department of Youth Ministries Director shall be authorized to receive an offering in each section for the winning quiz team, to help pay their expenses to regional and national finals. The offering shall be placed in the District Youth Ministries office special fund, and the amount to be paid out of the fund shall be left to the discretion of the District Director in consultation with the District Bishop.

j. The books of the Department of Youth Ministries of the Central California District shall be closed December 31 and be audited in a manner approved by the District Board.

k. Medical and hospitalization insurance shall be provided for the District Director and his immediate family with the same being financed through the Department of Youth Ministries District Office of Central California.

SECTION 11. *Standing*

a. The Department of Youth Ministries of Central California shall be considered a branch of the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Inc.

b. The Department of Youth Ministries shall support the activities and official publication of the Pentecostal Church of God.

SECTION 12. *Reports*

a. The Director of Youth Ministries shall give a report of his work and finances to the District Convention.

b. Reports at conventions shall be made by special committees.

SECTION 13. *Quorum*

Two-thirds (2/3) of voting members or delegates constitute a quorum.

SECTION 14. *Amendments*

a. The articles of this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of delegates present at any annual convention.

SECTION 15. *Expenses*

The District Director of Youth Ministries shall receive twelve-hundred-dollars (\$1200.00) for expenses to General Convention. The District Director shall receive twelve-hundred-dollars (\$1,200.00) for expenses to National Youth Leadership Conference. In the month of November of each year, the Director shall receive twelve-hundred-dollars (\$1200.00) for Central Committee Meeting expenses. The District Board is empowered to adjust this, as the economy requires. Should the Director elect not attend these meetings, these funds shall remain in the Department of Youth Ministries account.

ARTICLE XIV

Women's Ministries

Preamble

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call, through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, the ladies of our constituency into His service, giving them a zeal for missionary activity and a burden for souls; therefore be it RESOLVED, that we organize ourselves into local groups in the Central California District of the Pentecostal Church of God, Inc., and that we shall with mutual agreement, enter into a covenant of service for our Lord by further organizing ourselves into a District society.

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known as the Women's Ministries of Central California.

SECTION 2. The motto of the Women's Ministries shall be "Laborers together with God."

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the Women's Ministries shall be to encourage a missionary zeal and spirit throughout the churches; to assume the responsibility of sponsoring the various missionaries in their respective field of labor;

to carry on home missionary work in behalf of the needy; to promote the gospel program in every way possible for evangelization of the world.

ARTICLE III

Covenant

Whereas God is calling the ladies of our churches into His vineyard and giving them a zeal for service to others and a burden for the lost; therefore, we, the Women's Ministries of the Pentecostal Church of God, *do hereby pledge to prepare ourselves by seeking God in a personal commitment and by building homes with Christian relationships as a top priority*; further, we will work together for the advancement of the gospel of Christ around the world. We will not knowingly lend ourselves to any program that would hinder the cause of Christ; we will put forth every effort to keep our meeting free from un-Christ-like conversations and activities and will endeavor to keep uppermost the advancement of Christian Path Lighter and Bible college efforts, benevolences and home, foreign and Indian missions to the utmost of our abilities and will band ourselves together to pray unceasingly for our missionaries and their work around the world.

ARTICLE IV

Activities and Meetings

SECTION 1. There shall be a District Convention Rally each year to be held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Pentecostal Church of God, Central California District, Inc. SECTION 2. Besides the District Convention Rally, there shall be a District rally once or twice each year. The Executive Committee of the Women's Ministries and the District Board of the Central California District shall determine the time, place and program for these meetings.

SECTION 3. The District shall be divided into sections, each section to have a meeting once each three (3) months, at a time and place agreed upon by the local leaders, for the purpose of discussing missionary activities and planning sectional programs.

ARTICLE V

Membership

SECTION 1. The membership of the Women's Ministries of Central California shall consist of all local groups who have accepted this constitution and have signified by a vote of the members of the local group that they wish to enter by mutual fellowship into the Central California Women's Ministries, provided they are in accord with the doctrine as set forth by the Pentecostal Church of God.

SECTION 2. Any local group desiring to become a member of the Women's Ministries shall apply to the District Women's Ministries President for membership, and shall be presented a certificate of fellowship at the time the group is accepted for membership. SECTION 3. Any local group may withdraw membership by sending a notice of withdrawal to the District Office, together with the fellowship certificate.

SECTION 4. Change of pastors does not affect membership of any local society.

SECTION 5. Qualification for membership in the local society shall be upon confession of faith unto salvation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

SECTION 1. Officers

(a) The District Women's Organization known as the Women's Ministries shall have one (1) District President.

(b) There shall be one (1) Secretary-Treasurer for the Women's Ministries. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the District Board in cooperation with the District Women's Ministries President and will be announced during the convention.

(c) The Women's Ministries President and/or sectional leaders shall be a lady, saved and filled with the Holy Ghost, in good standing with the local church and the District, and shall have been a member of the District at least one (1) year.

(d) Sectional Women's Ministries leaders shall be elected by the pastors of each section, their companions, one (1) full-time assistant/associate pastor, the local Women's Ministries presidents and one (1) delegate from each affiliated Women's Ministries group. The term of office shall be for two (2) years after having served an initial one (1) year term, and such election is to be ratified by the District Convention.

(1) Election shall be by secret ballot. A simple majority shall be required for an election.

(e) The District Women's Ministries President shall be elected by the convention. Her term of office shall be for four (4) years after having served one two (2) year term.

SECTION 2. Qualifications of Officers

(a) The Women's Ministries President shall be a woman in good standing with her local church and the District, and shall have been a member of the District at least one (1) year.

(b) The Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer shall be a woman in good standing with the District, and shall be acquainted with bookkeeping procedure.

(c) The Women's Ministries sectional leaders shall be women of good report in the sections they represent.

SECTION 3. Duties of Officers

(a) Duties of the Women's Ministries President are to meet with the local groups, where invited, and to hold other meetings or rallies as approved by the section or sections where the meeting or rally is held.

She shall correspond with the sectional leaders regarding the activities of the District program.

(b) Duties of the Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer are to keep an accurate record of all monies received in the Women's Ministries program, such as rally offerings, Women's Ministries monthly support offerings, Women's Ministries President Rally offerings and to receive and disburse same in cooperation with the Women's Ministries President.

They shall keep secretarial records of Women's Ministries, send notices as to Women's Ministries rallies and keep correspondence of the Women's Ministries office in order.

(c) Duties of sectional leaders are to promote the Women's Ministries program in the section they represent under the supervision of the Women's Ministries President.

SECTION 4. Finance

(a) District Women's Ministries President is to receive tithes from the local church Women's Ministries projects.

(b) The Women's Ministries President will have the privilege of accepting free-will offerings from the local church groups visited and from Women's Ministries rallies for the Women's Ministries program.

(c) Each Women's Ministries group shall send an assessment of two dollars (\$2.00) monthly to the District Women's Ministries office for the support of the District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer.

(d) The District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer shall send a quarterly report of the tithes and assessments to the sectional leaders, who in turn shall have the privilege of contacting their local groups regarding their support.

(e) All Women's Ministries dues and monies except the convention drive monies shall be turned in to the Women's Ministries treasurer one (1) month before convention time.

(f) The annual Women's Ministries financial report shall be typed, reproduced and distributed to the convention at the time said report is presented.

SECTION 5. Women's Ministries District Banner

The District banner shall be the same as our national banner.

SECTION 7. Certificate of Fellowship

A certificate of fellowship shall be issued each Women's Ministries group set in order by the Women's Ministries President.

SECTION 8. Each group shall send in a quarterly report to their respective sectional leaders.