



Joy Christian Center
“Healing the Heart Ministries”

Constitution
And
ByLaws

April 1, 2013

JOY CHRISTIAN CENTER ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

This church shall be known as Joy Christian Center Assembly of God, Inc. It is located at 4335 Laurel Street, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND PREROGATIVES

Section 1. Worship

The purpose of this church shall be to establish and maintain a place of worship.

Section 2. Evangelize

The purpose of this church shall be to conduct under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures, the work of evangelizing both the home and foreign field in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19-20); and in harmony with the teaching practice of His servants, the apostles (Acts 8:4, 5, 25, 35, 40; 13:1-4; 16:6-10; Romans 15:8-20; II Corinthians 10:16; Romans 10:12-17).

Section 3. Establish Ministries

The purpose of this church shall be to establish such ministries as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the support of missionary activity.

Section 4. To Acquire and Dispose

It is the prerogative of this church to have the right to own, hold in trust, use or otherwise possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be necessary for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION AND RELATIONSHIP

This assembly declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Alaska District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, MO; and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by this affiliation.

Section 1. Cooperate

As a member of the General Council, this assembly will cooperate by every possible means in extension of God's work and kingdom throughout the world.

Section 2. Support Missions

As a member of the General Council, this assembly will support the missionary program agreed upon by the Alaska District Council and General Council.

Section 3. Participate

As a member of the General Council, this assembly will participate in Alaska District Council and General Council sessions via duly chosen delegates.

Section 4. Seek Counsel

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to invite the counsel of the Alaska District Council Presbytery in the event of church difficulty and when changing pastors.

Section 5. District Council and General Council Support

As a member of the General Council, this assembly will share in the financial support of the Alaska Ministry Network.

Section 6. Recognize

As a member of the General Council, this assembly recognizes that the Alaska Ministry Network shall have the right and authority to: approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct; withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

The human phraseology employed in this Statement of Fundamental Truths is not inspired, nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible; only that which covers our present needs to the fundamental doctrines.

Section 1. The Scripture Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, an infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2: 13; I Peter 1:21).

Section 2. The One True God

The One True God has revealed Himself as the Eternally Self-Existent, Self Revealed, "I AM", and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association, i.e., as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

Section 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,55)
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:36; I Peter 2:22)
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; Acts 10:38)
- d. His substitutionary work on the Cross (I Corinthians 15:2; II Corinthians 5:21)
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; I Corinthians 15:4)
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9; 2:33; Phil 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3)

Section 4. The Fall of Mankind

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness". However, man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

Section 5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:57). The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

Section 6. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. When they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47; Romans 6:4).

b. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the Elements - Bread and the Fruit of the Vine is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); A memorial to His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); A prophecy of His Second Coming (I Corinthians II :26); An enjoining of all believers until He comes.

Section 7. Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. With this experience comes the endowment of power for life and service; the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4 & 8; I Corinthians 12:1-31).

This experience is distinct from and subsequent of the experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit at the moment of new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost comes such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8); a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:18); an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42); a more active love for Christ, His Word, and the lost (Mark 16:20).

Section 8. Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues in I Corinthians 12:4-10, but different in purpose and use.

Section 9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil and to dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see God" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost, we are to obey the command "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15-16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his faith, reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6: 1-11; 6:13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:12-13; I Peter 21:5)

Section 10. The Church and its Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of its great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in Heaven (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason for being Assemblies of God as part of the Church is to be:

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

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The experience:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3-4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationships with God (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12, 13 & 14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit New Testament times for the edifying of the Body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:29).

Section 11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the church in:

- a. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16: 15-20).
- b. Worship of God (John 4:23-24),
- c. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4: 11-16).

Section 12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the Gospel Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers. (Isaiah 53 :4-4; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16; Mark 16:18).

Section 13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have died in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive at the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15.)

Section 14. The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ,

The Second Coming of Christ includes the Rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Jesus Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27-30; Revelations 1:7). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37 :21-22; Zechariah 3:19-20; Romans 11:26-27), and the establishment of the universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).

Section 15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead *will* be raised and judged according to their works. "Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beasts and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelations 19:20; 20:11-19; 21:9).

Section 16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

We, as the born again believers of God, look forward, according to His promise for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness (II Peter 3: 13; Revelation 21:22).

Article V. Membership

Persons who give biblical evidence of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who regularly attend and are in good standing with the Assembly, subscribe regularly to its financial support, take part in the services of this church, who are 18 years of age or older, who are living a consistent Christian life, and voluntarily subscribe to this church's Tenets of Faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws as herein set forth, shall be eligible for membership in this church. (See bylaws, Article II)

Article VI. Finances

This church shall be financed according to scriptural methods through tithes, offerings, gifts, and donations, of its members and friends of the church. (See Bylaws Article III) (Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 9:6-8 and income revenues from all other lawful sources. (See Bylaws, Article III)

Article VII. Government

Section 1. Elders

A Board of Elders may be established consisting of no less than two and no more than five men and women, including the Senior Pastor. The responsibility is primarily for the spiritual oversight of the church, who will function under the leadership of the Senior Pastor who is the presiding Elder. Elders shall meet the qualifications of 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:2-3. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, & Article VII, Section 2)

Section 2. Official Church Board

A Board consisting of no less than three men or women, shall be responsible primarily for the business and the material affairs of the church, functioning as the Trustees of this non-profit corporation. They shall come under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. They shall be men and women of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3-8. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 3 & Article VII, Section 3.)

Section 3. Corporation Officers/Official Church Board

The Official Church Board along with the Senior Pastor, who will serve as the President/Chair of this non-profit corporation, shall constitute the Executive Officers of the corporation. They will consist of the President/Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. (See Bylaws, Article VI.)

Article VIII. Meetings

Section 1. Church Services

Meetings for public worship shall be held under the direction of the Senior Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Elders, and the Official Church Board.

Section 2. Church Business Meetings

a. Annual Business Meeting

The annual Business Meeting of this church will include election of officers, and reports from all officers and ministries. The meeting shall be held before the end of February each year, the date and time determined by the Official Church Board. Notice shall be given two Sundays immediately prior to the date said for meeting, verbally and in writing, and not less than 10 (ten) days.

b. Special Business Meeting

Special business meetings of this church may be called when necessary after the notice has been given by the Senior Pastor or by the Executive Secretary of this Church. The meeting must be agreed upon by the majority of the Official Church Board.

Special business meetings may also be called by petition. Any member may exercise the right of petition in calling of a special business meeting of this church by presenting a petition, clearly stating the

reason for the petition, having been signed by not less than 59% of the active voting membership of this church, to the Senior Pastor or the Executive Secretary of the Official Church Board, who will notify the Official Church Board of said petition. Before the Official Church Board proceeds with a call for the said meeting, they shall notify the Sectional Presbyter and the District Superintendent of the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. Notice shall be given two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting, verbally and in writing, and not less than 10 (ten) days.

c. Quorum

The presence of 50% of the voting membership of this church will constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at any regular or special business meeting of the church.

d. Official Church Board Meetings

The Official Church Board may meet monthly and/or as needed for the transaction of the routine business for this assembly, with the time and place to be announced by the Senior Pastor. (See Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6.)

Article IX. Church Ministries

Section 1. Ministries and Teams

As the need arises, ministries and teams may be created and established, to minister and meet the need of the church and community life, and to fulfill the overall mission of this church. (See Bylaws, Article IX.)

Section 2. Relationships

All ministries and teams shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the leadership of the Senior Pastor and Elders. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all ministries and teams.

Article X. Property

All property of this assembly, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the church corporate name, Joy Christian Center, Inc., and shall be governed by the Bylaws, Article IV, Property Rights.

Article XI. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of this church in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided however, that due notice of such proposed change shall have been given, as provided in Article VIII, Section 2, of the Constitution setting forth the proposed amendment or amendments. It shall be understood that this does not apply to Article IV, Tenets of Faith.

Joy Christian Center Bylaws

Article I. Parliamentary Order of Business

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as provided in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised with the regular order of business.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. The Standard of Membership

Active voting membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- a. A testimony of being born again.
- b. Evidence of a consistent Christian life.
- c. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of the constitution.
- d. Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of this assembly with tithes, offering, talents, and time.
- e. Having reached the age of 18 years of age.
- f. Regularly attend services of, and support, this assembly for a period of at least 3 months prior to the date of application for membership, and furthermore, had a membership orientation with senior pastor or designee, and attended the membership class if one is provided.
- g. Agreement to being governed by the constitution and bylaws of this assembly, and of the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God.
- h. No member shall hold dual membership concurrent with the Assemblies of God and any other denomination.

Section 2. Reception of Members

- a. Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make the fact known to the Senior Pastor or designee, who shall examine the applicant according to the Bylaws, Article II Membership.
- b. The Senior Pastor, Elders, and the Official Church Board together shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by the majority vote, making their membership official at the time of the vote.
- c. Individuals will be taken into Membership throughout the year.

Section 3. Senior Pastor and Pastoral Staff

- a. By virtue of election to the office, the Senior Pastor and spouse shall be deemed active voting members of this church during their tenure.
- b. By virtue of their appointment, all pastoral staff and the respective spouses shall be deemed active voting members of this church during their tenure.

Section 4. Transferred Members

A member in good standing of another Assembly of God church, who satisfies the standards of membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article, may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly. The transfer member shall be received into membership upon the approval of the Senior Pastor and a majority of the Official Church Board.

Section 5. Junior Membership

Junior membership shall be available for young people 12 to 17 years of age who give evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these bylaws, have a membership orientation with the Senior Pastor or designee, attend the membership class, and are approved by the Senior Pastor, Elders, and a majority vote of the Official Church Board.

Section 6. Reconsideration of Membership

- a. If a member moves away from this church, he or she should notify the Senior Pastor or designee and receive a letter of transfer.
- b. If a member moves without making it known, or otherwise withdraws from the fellowship of the church, he or she shall be put on the inactive list after three months.
- c. If reasonable evidence is furnished that a member has no intentions of using his or her privilege of membership any longer, his or her name shall be removed from the church roll by action of the Official Church Board after one year.

Section 7. Discipline

- a. Should a member be alleged to be guilty of misconduct of a serious nature, or of any act justifying termination of membership, i.e. sowing discord in this church, guilty of unscriptural conduct, or whose doctrinal views are no longer in accord with this church's Tenets of Faith found in Article IV of the constitution: the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board may use their discretion in proceeding with the matter.
- b. No charges of misconduct or allegations, made by a member of this assembly, shall be considered by the Senior Pastor, Elders, and the Official Church Board, unless made in writing and duly subscribed to and signed by at least three members of this assembly.
- c. When formal charges have been made against a member, the Senior Pastor, Elders, and the Official Church Board shall decide whether or not the charges merit further action. If so, the member so charged shall be advised in writing by the Senior Pastor and a date set for a hearing before the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board in the presence of the three members making the charge, at which time the evidence presented shall be considered and a decision shall be determined by secret ballot of the Senior Pastor and Official Church Board. At least two thirds majority vote shall be necessary to establish guilt.
- d. If guilt is established, the Senior Pastor, Elders, and the Official Church Board shall decide what disciplinary action shall be taken. If genuine contrition, sorrow, and repentance are not evident on the part of the one charged, suspension of membership and its privileges, along with any public ministry may be considered as disciplinary action.

- e. Whenever any disciplinary action has been taken, it should be considered remedial and every effort made to restore the offender (Mathew 18:1, I Corinthians 2:6-11, Galatians 6:1-2, I Timothy 1:18-20, Titus 3:10).
- f. In the event of a serious conflict arising in the life of a member(s) and if reconciliation cannot be effected according to scripture, they shall have the right of appeal to the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board.
- g. The discipline of the credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God is administered by the Alaska District Presbytery. If the Senior Pastor is guilty of misconduct of a serious nature unbecoming of a credentialed minister, the Vice Chair of the Official Church Board, after consulting with the Official Church Board, must immediately contact the Presbyter and the District Superintendent of the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. If a credentialed minister, who is a member of this assembly, other than the Senior Pastor, is guilty of misconduct of a serious matter, unbecoming of a credentialed minister, the Senior Pastor, after consulting with the Official Church Board, must immediately contact the Presbyter and the District Superintendent of the Alaska District of the Assemblies of God.

Section 8. Waiver of Claim

Notwithstanding the provisions herein contained, membership in this church shall be granted upon the condition that the suspension of a member, and withdrawal of membership privileges in the manner herein provided, shall not give the suspended member cause for any legal action against any of the corporate officers, any church member or any church member taking part in the suspension proceedings; and the acceptance of membership and its privileges in this church shall be evidence in a waiver by the church member of all rights of action, causes of action and all claims and demands against this church, or any member or officer of the Assemblies of God, both of the Alaska Ministry Network jurisdictions, by virtue of suspension proceedings and withdrawal of membership and its privileges in this church under the foregoing provisions.

Section 9. Membership Roll

The Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board shall review the membership roll annually or as often as needed to keep it accurate and up-to-date.

Section 10. Secret Meetings

The Official Church Board discourages private or secret meetings pertaining to this church, to be conducted by any of the church membership, without the knowledge of the Senior Pastor.

Article III. Finances

- a. All income received from tithes, offerings, and all lawful sources shall be counted by designees, deposited by a person approved by the Senior Pastor, in the bank designated by the Senior Pastor and the Official Church Board.
- b. The distribution of all funds shall be under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Official Church Board.

- c. The Senior Pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount of which shall be determined by agreement between the Senior Pastor and the Official Church Board.
- d. Other staff shall receive financial support as determined by the Senior Pastor and the Official Church Board.
- e. A written report detailing the previous calendar year finances of this church and the budget for the New Year shall be presented to the voting membership at the annual business meeting.
- f. This church shall financially support missions as determined by the Senior Pastor and the Official Church Board.

Article IV. Property Rights

Section 1. Title and Ownership

All property of this assembly, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the church corporation name, Joy Christian Center, Inc.

Section 2. Sell, Lease, or Mortgage

- a. All purchases, sales, lease, or mortgage of chattel or real property exceeding fifty thousand dollars, shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal.
- b. The Senior Pastor and Official Church Board of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by the vote of the assembly membership. Such certification shall be held as conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 3. Disaffiliation

- a. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and the adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the Alaska District Presbytery of the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, and its decision shall be final and binding.
- b. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, and in the event that this church herein is named ceases to function for the purposes declared heretofore in the Articles if its Constitution, then the said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God to be used or disposed of said property at the discretion of the said Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God in furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Section 4. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any Officer, Elder, Official Church Board Member, Pastor, or any other individual. The Official Church Board shall,

after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said Ministry Network at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such funds or assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the borough in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for the religious purposes with similar faith as said assembly.

Article V. Character and Duties of Officers

Section 1. Senior Pastor

- a. The Senior Pastor shall be a tried and true Christian according to the prescription of the Apostle Paul (I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:5-11), who is an ordained or licensed minister working toward ordination with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- b. He/she shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities: shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the Official Church Board; shall provide for all the services of the assembly of all ministries and teams; shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns.

Section 2. Elders

- a. The Elders shall be men and women of mature spiritual development who by life and ministry are able to assist in leading and shepherding the flock of God. They shall meet the scriptural standards as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and I Peter 5:2-3 and be members in good standing of this church for a minimum of one year; faithful in their stewardship of time, talent, tithes, and offerings; faithful in their attendance of this Assembly; be 21 years of age or older; not partakers of alcoholic beverages; and may be credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God, though that is not a requirement. They shall not be part of the paid pastoral staff.
- b. The Elders shall:
 1. Have no legal power.
 2. Be spiritual advisors and helpers to the ministerial staff to assist in the ministries within this assembly; i.e. spiritual instruction; leadership of various ministries, visitation; outreach; participation in the examination of applicants for Membership; involvement in the administration of discipline; involvement in the annual review of the membership roster; assistance in the appointments of Board Members/Officers; the hiring of pastoral staff, etc.
 3. Not have voting privileges, but may attend Official Board Meetings.
 4. Serve at the discretion of the Senior Pastor.

Section 3. Church Board Members

- a. Members of the Official Church Board shall be men and women of mature spiritual development who by life and ministry are able to assist in leading and shepherding the flock of God. They

shall meet the scriptural standards as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and I Peter 5:2-3 and be members in good standing of this church for a minimum of one year; faithful in their stewardship of time, talent, tithes, and offerings; faithful in their attendance of this Assembly; not partakers of alcoholic beverages; be 23 years of age or older; and may be credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God, though that is not a requirement. They shall not be part of the paid pastoral staff.

- b. They shall come under the leadership of the Senior Pastor and be primarily responsible for the:
 1. Business and material affairs of this assembly, functioning as the Trustees of this Corporation.
 2. Appointment of corporate officers to be ratified by the membership of this assembly.
 3. Governing oversight in the receiving and disbursement of the Assembly's finances including responsibility for all properties that this Assembly may own and the management of the business affairs of this corporation.
 4. Spiritual health of the Assembly as spiritual advisors and helpers to the ministerial staff assisting in the ministries within this assembly; i.e. spiritual instruction; leadership of various ministries, visitation; outreach; participation in the examination of applicants for Membership; involvement in the administration of discipline; involvement in the annual review of the membership roster; assistance in the appointments of Board Members/Officers; the hiring of pastoral staff, etc.

Article VI. Official Church Board and Corporate Executive Officers.

Section 1. Official Church Board Members

The Official Church Board shall consist of the duly elected Board Members and the Senior Pastor. They shall be chosen from the membership of this church, except for the Senior Pastor, who may or may not be a member of this church at the time of being elected.

Section 2. Selection of Executive Officers

The month following the annual business meeting, the Official Church Board shall select a Vice Chair from amongst themselves, who shall serve as President/Chair and legal representative of the corporation, in the absence of the Senior Pastor who is the President/Chair of this corporation by virtue of office. They shall also elect a Secretary and Treasurer from amongst themselves.

Section 3. President

- a. The Senior Pastor shall be delegated as President/Chair by virtue of office upon election, and shall be the official Registered Agent of the Corporation as required by law.
- b. He shall be the chair of the business meetings of the voting membership of the assembly and of the Official Church Board. He shall keep good order, repel improper speech and attacks against the character of others, and keep the discussion in order within the limits of the question before the assembly, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 4. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record in the minutes of all business meetings of the church and all official board meetings, shall be the custodian of all legal documents, be in possession of the corporate seal, and handle all written correspondence for the Official Church Board.

Section 5. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall act as the designated bookkeeper of this corporation.
- b. The Treasurer shall give oversight to all finances given to this assembly, be entrusted with overseeing the disbursements of funds, ensure that all funds are deposited in a financial institution designated by the Official Church Board under the corporate name Joy Christian Center, Inc. and keep an exact itemized account of receipts and disbursements.
- c. The Treasurer shall give a summary of the condition of the treasury, including a complete financial statement, at each annual business meeting, and whenever the Official Church Board or Senior Pastor may request it.

Section 6. Board Meetings

The Official Church Board may meet bi-monthly and/or as needed for the transaction of routine business for the assembly; with the time and place to be announced by the Senior Pastor. The presence of 50% of the Official Church Board at any board meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII. Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies

Section 1. Senior Pastor Election Process

- a. The Senior Pastor shall be nominated by the pulpit committee consisting of appointees of the Official Church Board whom they deem spiritually qualified to serve on the pulpit committee. The pulpit committee may include members of the church board.
- b. The pulpit committee, after prayerful inquiry, and with judicious counsel, full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select an available, scripturally qualified ordained or licensed minister working toward ordination with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and in good standing with the Assemblies of God, who may or may not be a member of this church, as a nominee to the office of Senior Pastor, and present his or her name and ministry to the Official Church Board final selection approval. The selected candidate will present their ministry to the full assembly. The full assembly shall vote on the candidate prior to another candidate presenting their ministry. Candidates will not be compared, but rather the assembly will seek the direction of the Spirit one candidate at a time.
- c. The Senior Pastor shall be elected initially for a period of three years, and thereafter there shall be a confirmation vote to renew the Senior Pastor term for an indefinite period of time. This balloting shall be by secret ballot. The initial election shall require a two – thirds majority vote cast. The confirmation vote to renew the Senior Pastor’s term for an indefinite period of time, shall require a simple majority vote.

Section 2. Elders' Appointments

- a. Elders will be appointed by the Senior Pastor in cooperation with the Official Church Board of this Assembly.
- b. An Elder's term is indefinite.
- c. Termination of an Elder shall be by two-thirds of the Official Church Board.

Section 3. Official Church Board Election Process

- a. Active voting members of this assembly may recommend candidates for consideration to the Senior Pastor and the Official Church Board. However, to maintain the integrity of the process, so qualifications of the candidate may be determined, nominations for office shall not be accepted from the floor during any special or annual business meeting.
- b. The Board Members, who also serve as the Trustees, shall be chosen from the membership of the Assembly. The term of office shall be for three years and arranged so that approximately one-third of the terms expire each year.
- c. The Official Church Board who have served for three consecutive terms shall be required to take a leave from the Board for one year before they are eligible for reappointment to the Official Church Board, provided there are qualified and available members who are willing to serve.
- d. After thorough review of the qualifications of the candidates and interview of said candidate for the Official Church Board; the Senior Pastor and Official Church Board, shall nominate one candidate from this assembly by appointment to fill each expired term.
- e. The appointment of said nominee shall be ratified by a majority vote of the membership at a regular called annual business meeting.

Section 4. Senior Pastor Vacancy

- a. When a vacancy in the senior pastorate has occurred, preaching responsibilities shall be arranged by the Elders and the Official Church Board until a Senior Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in the Bylaws, Article VII, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies, Section 1 Senior Pastor.
- b. In the event a Senior Pastor has serious charges brought against him, or his ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, responsibility is vested in the Official Church Board to ask for the resignation of the Senior Pastor. Before such resignation is asked for, the Official Church Board shall consult the Board of Elders, Sectional Presbytery, and the District Superintendent of the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God.
- c. If the Senior Pastor refuses to resign, the senior pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Official Church Board has been sustained by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose; such a meeting to be announced two weeks in advance and presided over by an Alaska Ministry Network Official.
- d. If the Senior Pastor is moving from office, any action is not to be considered as otherwise affecting the standing of the Pastor with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 5. Official Church Board Vacancy

- a. If a Board Member vacates the Official Church Board, the vacancy may be filled as the occasion demands through appointment of a qualified member of this assembly, by the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board. The appointment shall be ratified at the following annual business meeting of the membership, as allowed for in the Bylaws, Article VII, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies, Section 3, Official Church Board Election Process.
- b. Should a Board Member who is a member of the Official Church Board have serious charges brought against him or her for unscriptural conduct, radical departure from the Tenets of Faith in Article IV of the Constitution, of failure to support the church with his or her time, talent, or finances, the office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board.
- c. If further discipline is necessary, the prescribed action found in Article II, Membership, Section 7, Discipline, shall be followed.

Article VIII. Right of Petition

- a. Any member may exercise the right of petition in the calling of a special business meeting of this church by presenting a petition clearly stating the reason for the said petition and having been signed by not less than 50% of the active voting membership of this church, to the Senior Pastor or the Executive Secretary of the Official Church Board, who will notify the Official Church Board of said petition.
- b. In the case of a petition calling for the removal of the Senior Pastor from office, before the Official Church Board proceeds with a call for the said meeting, they shall notify the Sectional Presbytery and District Superintendent of the Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. Due notice of the said meeting shall be given to the active voting membership two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting, verbally and in writing, and not less than 10 (ten) days. An Alaska Ministry Network Official shall be requested to chair the meeting. If the Senior Pastor is removed from office, any such action is not to be considered as otherwise affecting the standing of the Assemblies of God.
- c. In the case of a petition calling for the removal of an Elder or Official Church Board member, the office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of the Senior Pastor, Elders, and the Official Church Board. The decision of the Senior Pastor, Elders, and the Official Church Board shall be final concerning the matter. If further discipline is necessary, the prescribed action found in Article II, Membership, Section 7, Discipline, shall be followed.

Article IX. Ministries and Teams

- a. As the need arises, ministries and teams may be created and established, to minister and meet the need of church and community life, and to fulfill the overall mission of this church.
- b. They shall come under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all ministries and teams.
- c. All leaders of ministries and teams shall submit a written report annually to the membership of this church business meeting.
- d. No ministries or teams may be created without the approval of the Senior Pastor.

Article X. Civil Government

- a. The Scriptures declare the government is of God and the powers that be are ordained of God as ministers of God to be leaders. Whosoever, therefore, resists the power resists the ordinance of God, wherefore we are subject not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake; rendering to all their due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor (Romans 13: 1-7).
- b. The Members of this Assembly, as citizens, are thankful to God and this nation for all the privileges enjoyed under its laws, and for the freedom under its constitution to worship God after the dictates of our own conscience.
- c. Therefore, this church shall go on record as supporting individual service to our country, and also supporting the conviction of any member in good standing whether to bear arms or not to bear arms in times of national danger in a combative or non-combative service.

Article XL Amendments

- a. These Bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the voting membership of this church in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided, however, that due notice of such proposed change shall have been given, as provided in Article VIII, Section 2, of the Constitution setting forth the proposed amendment or amendments.
- b. Due diligence of research shall be required by the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Official Church Board before considering amendments that may apply to said Bylaws, Article IV, Property Rights.
- c. No amendment shall be made to these Bylaws which invalidates the Articles of Incorporation of this church. This Constitution and Bylaws shall supersede, and make null and void, any and all articles, documents, or agreements, written or verbal, which are in conflict with the articles described herein.