

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of the
EAST TEXAS DISTRICT
of the
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD**

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Revised to 2019

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Preface

History of the East Texas District

The District Convention of the Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God was conducted at Houston, Texas in 1943. A resolution was passed making two districts from the state of Texas. East Texas District is the territory designated as follows:

“The East Texas District shall consist of that portion of the State of Texas east of a line as follows: Highway 77 south from the state line of Oklahoma to the intersection of 377, thence South to 820 Loop; it shall follow this route east and south to Highway 80 where said Highway 80 joins the line of the Southwest Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God, Inc. East Texas District shall also consist of all that portion of the state of Texas lying east of a line beginning at the Gulf of Mexico and along the southwest Victoria County line, the intersection of said county line with State Highway 77, thence north along Highway 77 to Waco, Texas; north on Interstate Highway 35 to Hillsboro, Texas; north on Interstate 35 to Ft. Worth, Texas; thence follows Loop 820 until it intersects 377 east; north to Highway 80 at a point which divides West, North and East Texas Districts.”

The newly formed East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God of America was comprised of thirty-three (33) churches. It chartered with the State of Texas on March 9, 1954. There are currently fifty-six (56) churches that are a part of the East Texas District.

Reverend O. Berryhill was elected in 1942 to serve as the first District Superintendent. Reverend Berryhill saw fit to serve only one year. Following him in succession have been the following men: Reverend D. P. Robinson (1943-1944), Reverend R. B. Caldwell (1944-1952), Reverend E. C. Turner (1952-1959), Reverend Worden McDonald (1959), Reverend M. R. Owens (1959-1972), Reverend J. D. Barker (1972-1988), Reverend R. C. Helms (1988-2009), and currently, Reverend Roy L. Carrico. In 2003 the title of District Superintendent was changed to District Bishop.

East Texas District relocated the district offices from the campus of Southern Bible College in Houston to Corsicana, Texas, in 1970 on seven and one-half ($7\frac{1}{2}$) acres of land, north of the city limits on Business Loop 45. A district office and district Bishop's parsonage were built at that time. Following their completion, a district youth parsonage was built. In 1979 the district purchased five and one-half ($5\frac{1}{2}$) acres from the B.W. Johnson tract of land located directly behind district property and a district campground was built with two (2) girl's and two (2) boy's dormitories, a dining hall, concession stand and an open air tabernacle. The first Youth Camp was conducted at the new location in the summer of 1981. In 2005 a District Convention Center was built on the original tract of property. In 2016, a First-Aid Station was added to the campground and

the two girl's dorms were connected and enlarged creating one dorm with abundant restroom facilities. In January 2018, the district purchased the house and one and one-sixth ($1\frac{1}{6}$) acres belonging to the Johnson family. This purchase connected the two tracts of the property together. At the 2018 District Convention the delegates voted to purchase the house and 1 acre tract of property belonging to Jim Johnson, which lay within the boundaries of the district property. This larger home became the youth parsonage and the old youth parsonage now houses the Property Caretaker. This purchase restored the original 15 acre tract of land that was purchased in 1970 and was divided between the district and the B.W. Johnson family.

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 most 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. (2Peter1:21).

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 a 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 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 for 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 evangelists, 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 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. 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-tribulational 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 for 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 25:41-46) 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. 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 our 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.

18. 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).

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of the
EAST TEXAS DISTRICT
of the
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
2018

ARTICLE ONE
NAME

The name of the corporation, as set out in the charter, filed March 9, 1954, in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Texas is EAST TEXAS DISTRICT OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD OF AMERICA.

ARTICLE TWO
OBJECT AND PURPOSE

Section 1.

The purpose and object of this religious corporation is to further, within our boundaries, the general purpose of the Pentecostal Church of God. Refer to Article XIX of the General Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIX Purpose

Section 1. Objects.

The objects of this corporation shall be:

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;
3. To promote fellowship and means of cooperation between churches of similar faith and doctrine;
4. To promote, establish and maintain certain districts therein, which shall be self-governing insofar as same do not conflict with the objects and purposes of this organization, subject to the jurisdiction and control of the corporation;
5. 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;
6. To qualify and credential ministers to preach the Gospel;
7. To foster biblical education and ministerial training, and establish other institutions and to own and operate such properties as will support Christian ministry as directed by the General Board;
8. To own, operate and maintain such printing and publishing plants as may, in the opinion of the General 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 members of said corporation;

9. To buy, rent, acquire by gift or otherwise, and to own, operate, maintain and use, such real estate and 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 General Board, be advantageous to the interest of the corporation;

10. To borrow money for the purpose of purchasing such real estate, personal and mixed property as, in the opinion of the General 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; (For clarification purposes in connection with organizational business affecting church-owned properties, the respective interests in properties, real, personal and mixed, owned in whole or in part by the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), a Texas Corporation, or any of its districts, shall be construed to be interests in fee simple.) and

11. To make bylaws for the government of the corporation, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State of Texas, the United States of American, other states or foreign countries; and to alter, revise and amend the same.

Section 2. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the East Texas District Corporation, the assets of the district corporation will be transferred to the general corporation and in the event of the dissolution of any local church; the assets of the local church will be transferred to the district corporation. Refer to Article XXII of the General Bylaws.

ARTICLE XXII Dissolution 1. The assets of the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), a Texas corporation, are irrevocably dedicated exclusively for religious, charitable and/or education purposes. In the event of dissolution of the corporation, the General Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation, so as to insure that the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons, but that all remaining assets will be distributed to a non-profit organization or organizations, which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law as the General Board shall determine).

2. In the event of the dissolution of any district corporation, the assets of the district corporation will be transferred to the general corporation, and in the event of the dissolution of any local church, the assets of the local church will be transferred to the district corporation in which the church is located.

ARTICLE THREE OFFICERS

Section 1. Corporate Officers

- (a) The officers of the corporation shall consist of: District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer and District Presbyter. These officers shall also act as the only trustees of the district.
- (b) The office of the president of the corporation shall, at all times, be filled by the District Bishop, and his term or election shall coincide therewith.
- (c) The office of the corporate secretary-treasurer shall, at all times, be filled by the District Secretary-Treasurer, and his term, election or appointment shall coincide therewith.
- (d) The office of trustee shall, at all times, be filled by the District Presbyter, and his term, election or appointment shall coincide therewith.
- (e) The tenure of the offices of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God shall begin the first day of the second month after convention. Any retiring official shall be required to spend a part of the time between the closing of the District Convention and the end of his tenure to familiarize the incoming officer with the conduct and responsibilities of his office.

Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF DISTRICT BISHOP

- (a) The District Bishop shall be an ordained minister, male, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, who has the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with at least seven (7) years experience in the ministry, with three (3) of these years an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Church of God, and must reside in and be credentialed with the East Texas District for one (1) year.
- (b) The District Bishop shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to serve a term of two (2) years.
- (c) In the event this office becomes vacant for any reason, the General Bishop, sitting as chairman, and the District Board, shall appoint some suitable member of the district, who shall properly qualify, to complete the unexpired term.

Section 3. Duties of District Bishop

District Bishop or President

- (a) He shall serve as chairman of the annual convention of the district.
- (b) He shall be president of this Religious Corporation and head of the district office, and he shall supervise the work of that office during the interim between sessions of the district.
- (c) He shall be general overseer of all work in the district and shall administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Executive District Board.
- (d) He shall perform any other duty usual and customary for the presiding officer, and such as may be directed by the Executive Board.
- (e) Any other committees and boards, as may be necessary, shall be appointed by the chairman of the District Board.
- (f) He shall sign all official and legal documents.

(g) He shall devote all his time to his office.

(h) Churches have suffered in times past because they have gone without pastors. The District Bishop shall declare a state of emergency in such cases and shall appoint a pastor until such an emergency shall end. When a church is without a pastor and there are two (2) or more qualified ministers desiring to try out for the pastorate, the District Bishop cannot and will not appoint a pastor.

Section 4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER

(a) The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be an ordained minister, male, not less than thirty (30) years of age, with the baptism of the Holy Ghost and with at least four (4) years experience in the ministry, and must reside in and be credentialed with the East Texas District for one (1) year.

(b) The District Board shall nominate three (3) names and these three (3) names shall be taken from the ordained ministers list. Other nominations may be added from the District Convention floor.

(c) The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the convention to serve a term of two (2) years.

Section 5. Duties of District Secretary-Treasurer

(a) He shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the district and shall publish same as approved and directed by the district.

(b) He shall keep a record of all ministers, licentiatees and churches in the district fellowship.

(c) He shall act as secretary of the meetings of the district and of the Executive Board.

(d) He shall be authorized to attest by his signature all official and legal documents, and to perform such other duties as are necessary or may be directed by the District Board.

(e) He shall be custodian of the district funds and shall receive and forward to the general office and the missionary department of the Pentecostal Church of God, at Bedford, Texas, such funds as are customary to be sent to said office.

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

(g) He shall make a report each month to the District Bishop, and his books shall be audited once a year.

(h) He shall carry a fidelity bond in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00), the cost of such bond to be paid out of the District Tithe Fund.

(i) He shall have custody of the seal of this religious corporation.

(j) A full and complete written report shall be made annually on home mission's funds, and each minister in the district shall receive a copy of same.

(k) It shall be the duty of the District Secretary-Treasurer to keep the master bylaw book up-to-date, subject to the Executive District Board.

(l) A listing of all ministers and churches of the East Texas District, accompanied by the minutes of the District Convention shall be compiled by the District Secretary-Treasurer and shall be printed annually and supplied to each minister of the district.

(m) The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be required to have the district bylaws prepared, printed and distributed to each minister in the district. All reports of district and sectional officers which are not filed with the District Secretary-Treasurer by the close of District Convention shall not be included in the minutes.

(n) The District Secretary-Treasurer shall not be required to maintain regular hours in the district office.

Section 6. QUALIFICATIONS OF DISTRICT PRESBYTER

(a) The District Presbyter (also known as the District Field Presbyter) shall be an ordained minister, male, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, who has the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with not less than seven (7) years experience in the ministry, and must reside in and be credentialed with the East Texas District for one (1) year.

(b) The District Presbyter shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to serve a term of two (2) years

Section 7. Duties of District Presbyter

(a) He shall be referred to as the District Field Presbyter and he shall cooperate with and assist the District Bishop in opening new fields, organizing new districts and assist the pastors and evangelists in conducting their convention. The work of such pastors, evangelists and the District Presbyter shall be under the direction of the District Bishop. He shall, when necessary, be empowered to collect funds for the general office.

(b) He shall, along with the District Bishop, represent the district at all General Board Meetings.

(c) The District Presbyter shall serve as the Assistant District Bishop.

Section 8. QUALIFICATIONS OF SECTIONAL PRESBYTER

(a) The Sectional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers, male, baptized in the Holy Ghost, at least thirty (30) years of age, with not less than five (5) years experience in the ministry, and must reside in and be credentialed with the East Texas District for one (1) year. They shall be elected for a term of two (2) years by a simple majority of those present to vote. Those qualified to vote shall be ordained, licensed, and exhorter ministers and their spouses, and one (1) church delegate for every one hundred (100) church members or fraction thereof from each church in their respective sections. Their elections shall be approved by the voting constituents of the District Convention.

(b) The Sectional Presbyter shall be a pastor or Co-Pastor of a church in the section where he serves.

(c) No one is qualified for any district office unless he is active in the ministry.

(d) No minister will be eligible to be elected to any position in the District who is not current on all fees (including tithe); neither will they be eligible if they have received a disciplinary letter to meet the District Board until the matter is resolved.

Section 9. Duties of Sectional Presbyter

(a) He shall be the presiding officer of the section he represents. He shall have the oversight of all other usual and customary duties of such office or as may be directed by the District Board. He shall be responsible for the progress and development of the section he represents.

(b) The Sectional Presbyter shall cooperate with and assist the District Bishop in the section he represents.

(c) He shall be a member of the District Board.

(d) The Sectional Presbyter shall supervise all the pastoral elections in the local churches of the section he represents. The Bishop will preside only when requested by the presbyter or where an emergency may require.

(e) He will endeavor to see that each local church has a supply preacher when said church is without a regular pastor, and shall make appointments for preachers who wish to try out for a church in his section.

(f) It will be considered a part of his work to set in order any new church or unorganized group with the Pentecostal Church of God.

(g) He shall be in charge of the sectional fellowship meetings and the regular nightly offerings shall go to help him to cover his expense. We suggest that all help to make this a liberal offering. No special offering shall be taken without the consent of the presbyter or pastor of the church in which the meeting is to be held. He shall work out a program in his section to raise home missionary money.

(h) Each Sectional Presbyter shall be required to attend at least two (2) District Board Meetings each fiscal year in order to continue in that office.

(i) The Sectional Presbyter shall be a pastor or a Co-Pastor of a church in the section where he serves. The District Bishop will be empowered to appoint a non-pastor in new sections where no Pentecostal Church of God pastor is available.

(j) When a church is open for a pastor, the presbyter shall notify the Bishop, who in turn shall notify, by letter, each presbyter, and the presbyters shall notify each pastor.

(k) The Sectional Presbyter shall be responsible for all records, materials, etc. being duly transferred from any and all outgoing sectional officers to the incoming officer to ensure a proficient transfer of all duties and responsibilities of that office.

(l) The rules of order adopted by the District Convention shall be the rules of order for all sectional business meetings.

(m) Each incoming pastor of one of our churches is to be informed by a letter from the sectional presbyter of any moneys owed by the church to the church relocation fund, and the incoming pastor shall be furnished with a copy of the church's contractual agreement with the District.

(n) When a pastor has been elected or appointed in one of our churches, the Sectional Presbyter may, if necessary, have a meeting within thirty (30) days with the pastor, the church secretary-treasurer and/or the church board to provide the new pastor with all information concerning finances, obligations, income, etc.

(o.) The presbyter shall receive all applications pertaining to credentials in his section and shall make proper investigation of all applicants.

(1) Applicants for fellowship shall have their application signed by their pastor and countersigned by the presbyter of the section where the applicant resides. The application must be mailed to the district office at least fifteen (15) days prior to the District Board Meeting.

(2) The applicant shall meet the presbyter to insure that all paperwork is completed and accurate.

(3) The Sectional Presbyter shall furnish his findings to the District Board sitting in executive session.

(4) The District Board shall be the only board with the authority to grant or refuse an applicant's request for credentials, promotions, or reinstatements, and their decision shall be final.

(p) The presbyter is at liberty to use the pastors or a committee from them, to conduct business pertaining to his section and to help promote better fellowship among churches. Nothing more than what has been set out on the agenda will be introduced in any of these meetings, unless prior notice is given to the presbyter and his approval has been given.

Section 10. ASSISTANT SECTIONAL PRESBYTER

(a) In each section, where it is feasible, an Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be elected biennially at the Sectional Presbyter's election, and his qualifications shall be the same as the Sectional Presbyter.

(b) The Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall act as the presbyter when the presbyter is absent, sick or otherwise incapacitated, and shall assume the presbyter's office upon his death or resignation.

Section 11. Office Secretary (Assistant to the District Secretary-Treasurer)

(a) This position shall be known as the "Assistant to the District Secretary-Treasurer."

(b) The individual employed for this office shall be a Spirit-filled Christian who is faithful to their local church; when all efforts have been exhausted to fill this position from a Pentecostal Church of God, we may reach outside of our organization.

(1) He or she shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the East Texas District, at will, and shall be paid a stipulated salary as determined by the District Board.

(2) Said Assistant to the District Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain the routine business of the district office (which shall not include policy decisions), under the supervision of the District Secretary-Treasurer, which

shall include the usual clerical duties, bookkeeping, etc., and he or she shall recognize that the District Bishop is the head of the district office.

(3) He or she shall be an authorized signer of district checks, and a bond of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), the premium of which shall be paid by the district, shall be furnished by said employee.

(4) He or she shall be required to maintain regular office hours, the schedule of which shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

(5) All other provisions of the district constitution and bylaws, as they affect the District Secretary-Treasurer shall remain unchanged.

ARTICLE FOUR EXECUTIVE DISTRICT BOARD

(a) Executive District Board members shall include: the District Bishop, District Presbyterian, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Youth Director (except where the District Youth Director is not a male) and each Sectional Presbyterian. It shall be chaired by the District Bishop unless it is impossible for him to attend, in which case, it shall be chaired by the District Presbyterian. Two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive District Board members shall constitute a quorum. When it is impossible for the District Secretary-Treasurer to be present, the remaining board members shall select a temporary secretary for that particular meeting.

(b) The Executive District Board shall hold annual meetings and other meetings may be called at any time deemed necessary by the District Bishop and District Secretary-Treasurer or by a written request of two-thirds (2/3) of the District Board members, by giving thirty (30) days written notice to all board members.

(c) This District Board shall be the executive body of the district and have full authority to conduct the business of this religious corporation between annual or called meetings.

(d) The Executive Committee (composed of the District Bishop, District Secretary-Treasurer and District Presbyterian), has the power to acquire personal property and real estate in the name of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God by gift, purchase for cash or credit, or partly both, trade or otherwise, as may be necessary or beneficial in carrying out its purpose, and the said Executive District Board or Executive Committee shall have the power with reference to any and all property of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God, whether owned at this time or acquired in the future, to sell, encumber, to lease, to lease for oil or gas, to rent, to trade or otherwise deal with such property, to contract to do any of said things, to borrow money for and on behalf of the corporation, whether now owned or acquired in the future, to enter into contracts for or on behalf of the corporation, and all of such terms as to the Executive District Board or Executive Committee may be deemed best; and all deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts or other papers necessary or convenient to carry said powers into effect shall be executed and signed in the name of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God by the Executive District Board or the Executive Committee on behalf of the

corporation. Said Executive District Board or Executive Committee shall have the power to demand and collect any monies that may be due the corporation and to assert and sue for any and all claims and/or causes of actions of whatsoever character, on properties now held by, or in the future acquired by, the corporation.

(e) Executive District Board Meetings may be held at any time a quorum is present.

(f) Each member of the Executive District Board must attend at least two (2) board meetings each fiscal year.

(g) Any person desiring to present a proposal, grievance, complaint, program or request to the District Board, must submit it to the District Bishop's office, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the board meeting at which they desire to appear. The District Office shall notify each board member of the request to appear at the District Board meeting. In a case of extreme emergency the District Executive Committee shall be able to waive the required thirty (30) days.

(h) After each meeting of the District Board, a report of that meeting shall be sent to each minister of the East Texas District. The report shall consist of the names of all new ministers added to our district roster, those who have transferred from other districts, including all exhorters, licensed and ordained. Also, reports of progress made by special committees approved by previous conventions. The report shall include any information that will be of benefit to the ministers of the district.

ARTICLE FIVE LOCAL CHURCHES

Section 1. Pastoral Elections

(a) Each local church shall elect its own pastor, who shall be chairman of all church committees. All meetings which have any connection with the church, or are called by the members of the church, shall be under his supervision or have his approval.

(b) All ministers desiring to apply for the position of pastor are required to submit full and complete resume upon the request of the church.

(c) The pastoral candidate shall be in full fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God, and shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) majority of membership present and in good standing.

(d) He or she shall be elected indefinitely unless otherwise specified at the time of election. (It is recommended that if a pastor is not elected indefinitely, that he or she be elected for a minimum of two (2) years.)

(e) No minister shall be allowed to apply for the position of pastor for any of our churches unless he or she has carried credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God for at least ninety (90) days, unless that time period is waived by the District Board.

(f) No minister will be allowed to apply for the position of pastor who is not current (not more than 30 days behind) with all fees, including credentials and tithe, at the time the pastoral position becomes available. His or her current renewal must be on file at the District Office.

(g) No preacher shall be considered for election as pastor for any of our churches unless he or she has a letter of commendation from his or her district office.

(h) When a pastor has completed his or her term of office as pastor, he or she may be re-elected to the pastorate of his or her church by a majority vote.

(i) A local Pentecostal Church of God church is privileged to form a Pulpit Committee for the purpose of evaluating potential pastoral candidates if they so desire.

(j) It is required that when a minister and/or his spouse and children who are living at home are voting members of a local church, and said minister is being considered as pastor of that church; that the minister and/or his spouse and children who are living at home refrain from exercising their voting privileges.

(k) No minister shall be allowed to submit his or her name for consideration to pastor a Pentecostal Church of God church or a chartered fellowship church, unless he or she is attending a Pentecostal Church of God or an independent church pastored by a Pentecostal Church of God pastor at least ninety (90) days prior to the creation of the vacancy being considered. All full-time evangelists who carry credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God, who meet the qualifications in Article 5, Section 1, Paragraph (e) shall be exempt from this statute.

(l) No church shall appoint or elect an associate pastor, assistant pastor, or campus pastor who does not carry credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God. Before appointment or election can be considered, the applicant must first meet the District Board to obtain credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God.

(m) In any case where a local church is unable to reach a pastoral election after the third business meeting is called for on an election, and no election is reached, the District Executive Committee shall be empowered to appoint a pastor for not more than six (6) months. At the end of this period, an effort shall be made to reach an election or the appointment shall be made permanent.

(n) When a pastor has been elected or appointed in one of our churches, the Sectional Presbyter may, if necessary, have a meeting within thirty (30) days with the pastor, the church secretary-treasurer, and/or the church board to provide the new pastor with all information concerning finances, obligations, income, etc.

(o) Every pastoral election shall proceed in this order:

- (1) When a pastoral position is available in a local church the Sectional Presbyter shall notify the District Bishop, who in turn shall notify by letter each presbyter, and the presbyters shall notify each pastor.
- (2) The Sectional Presbyter shall endeavor to see that each local church has a supply preacher when said church is without a regular

pastor, and shall make appointments for preachers who wish to try out for a church in his section.

- (3) The Sectional Presbyter shall supervise all pastoral elections in the local churches of the section he represents. The District Bishop will preside only when requested by the presbyter or when it may be required due to an emergency.
- (4) When a church has gone without a pastor, the District Bishop shall declare a state of emergency and shall appoint a pastor until the church is able to elect a pastor. When a church is without a pastor and there are two (2) or more qualified ministers desiring to apply for the position of pastor the District Bishop shall not appoint a pastor.

(p) Whereas, in the past, some difficulty has been encountered in determining the state of church finances upon the resignation of the pastor in those works described as dependent; a pastor who resigns from a dependent church or one of our churches which has received district monies to supplement their budget, shall submit to the district office a full report of the state of finances of the church, countersigned by the church-treasurer and/or designated church official. Failure to comply with this requirement will place the credentials of the resigning pastor in question.

Section 2. Co-Pastor

- (a) Co-pastors are licensed or ordained ministers, in good standing with the Pentecostal Church of God, and cleared through the District Office.
- (b) Installed with equal responsibility for pastoral ministry.
- (c) Each shall be considered a pastor and they may share duties within the congregation.
- (d) When the relationship of one co-pastor is dissolved, the other remains as pastor of the church.

Section 3. Co-Pastor Elections

- (a) The co-pastor shall be nominated by the pastor.
- (b) Approved by the church board where applicable, and ultimately ratified by the roster members of the church with the presence of their sectional presbyter or a district executive.

Section 4. Appointed/Interim Pastors

(a) Appointed and interim pastors shall come under the oversight of the District Presbyter. These pastors shall agree to and abide by the following directives:

- (1) They shall send the District Presbyter and the District Office a monthly financial report listing income and expenses, along with a report listing weekly service attendance.
- (2) They shall perform the normal duties of a pastor such as preaching, teaching, visitation, and insuring that the property is properly maintained (utilities, insurance, mowing, etc.)

- (3) They must faithfully attend sectional functions.
 - (4) No church property or furnishings shall be rented or sold without approval from the District Executive Committee.
 - (5) Only upon approval of the District Executive Committee, shall anyone be allowed to live in/on the church property on a temporary basis.
 - (6) All financial decisions shall be under the direction of the District. No contracts for bank loans, credit cards or any other indebtedness shall be entered into by an appointed/interim pastor.
 - (7) Any personal monies invested in the church will not be repaid without prior approval by the Executive Committee.
 - (8) Any appointed/interim pastor in compliance with these directives and District Bylaws will not be reappointed.
 - (9) If not reappointed, they will have 30 days to vacate and remove all personal belongings from the church property.
- (b) First appointment shall be for a period of 6 months. If reappointed, the length of time shall be determined by the District Board.

Section 5. The Local Church

(a) Church Government

- (1.) Each church shall adopt a constitution and bylaws which shall be used to govern the local church. These bylaws shall in no way conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the general or district organization.
- (2.) It is recommended that the "Recommended Local Church Bylaws," provided by the General Office of the Pentecostal Church of God, be used as guidelines in forming local church bylaws. In the event the church has no other local church bylaws and one of the district officials of the East Texas District be called upon to conduct business in the local church, he shall be expected to use said bylaws of the general office for local churches, to govern any question to be decided upon.
- (3.) The district officials are not privileged to interfere in the business of the local church, except when invited to do so by the pastor or by a two-thirds majority of the duly elected church board.
- (4.) When a local church asks a pastor to leave, he shall be given at least thirty (30) days notice, and if the pastor resigns, he shall give thirty (30) days notice to the church.
- (5.) It is recommended to the local church, that in forming organizations within the church, such as youth, women's, or men's organizations, all officers of such organizations be subject to the constitution and bylaws of the local church.
- (6.) It is required that the local church keep a roster of those who are definitely affiliated with the church and that active participation in business meetings be limited to those of eighteen (18) years of age, or more, whose names are on the roster thirty (30) days or more previous to the business meetings.
- (7.) In as much as any of our conscientious churches would feel morally and spiritually obligated to provide for the funeral expense of a pastor, in the event of his or her decease; and, because it would bring an almost unbearable hardship on the church should this situation arise; it is recommended that in the event the

general organization institutes a group insurance plan for all its ministers, each affiliated church pay the annual premium for its pastor. Should the local church be financially able, said church shall pay the cost for Social Security coverage for its pastor.

(8.) Because there is a tendency on the part of certain church boards to assume the power of a dictatorial body, rather than that of an advisory or cooperative body, we recommend to our pastors and churches throughout the district that, in the future, they refrain from appointing or retaining on their boards persons who do not meet the qualifications of deacons, or cooperative members, in subjection as servants and cooperative as such, not assuming authority over the pastor of the church.

(b) Church Membership

(1.) Any person accepted for membership in a Pentecostal Church of God must have a born again experience of salvation, and either have or be actively engaged in seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4.

(2.) All officers serving on the local church level must have a born again experience of salvation and the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4.

(3.) We the constituency of the Pentecostal Church of God solely base our beliefs and lifestyles on the Word of God. According to God's word, sodomy is a sin. (Gen. 19: 1-29, Romans 1: 24-28). We do not condone persons who live in these sins, and they will not be allowed to become members of our churches, or take part in any leadership positions in any Pentecostal Church of God or fellowship church.

(4.) It is recommended that all churches shall run a background check on all staff, paid or volunteer, that works with minors.

(c) District Requirements of Churches

(1.) All Pentecostal Church of God churches of the East Texas District shall carry the name or logo of the Pentecostal Church of God visible to the general public.

(2.) Churches that have telephones should provide the number to the district office for purposes of printing the church number in district bylaws.

(3.) All churches deeded or co-deeded to the district are required to carry property insurance. Any minister pastoring a Pentecostal Church of God church, who allows the church insurance to lapse without notifying the district office and the Sectional Presbyter, will automatically be in question.

(4.) In the event a church must request assistance from the district office to pay its insurance and/or utilities or any other monthly commitments of the church, all their finances will come under the direct supervision of the district office until the need for assistance is resolved.

(5.) Each church shall be entitled to representation in the annual district meeting. This representation shall be the pastor and spouse, as well as, one (1) delegate per hundred active church members, or fraction thereof. Should the pastor be unable to attend, he is empowered to appoint a representative to act for him.

- Each appointed church delegate shall carry a letter from the local church to the convention.
- (6.) When any established church falls in attendance to ten (10) or less for a period of thirty (30) days, the District Bishop will be empowered to take complete charge of said church at his “discretion.”
- (7.) Any preacher who resigns from his pastorate shall notify his Sectional Presbyter and give him the effective date of his resignation; and any further business meetings shall not be held without the consent and presence of the Sectional Presbyter or the District Bishop. Any time a church is closed or the assets are being disposed of, the District Bishop shall be notified and shall be in charge of all meetings, and/or shall act as mediator in all proceedings pertaining thereto. Any minister found in violation of this bylaw shall be subject to being placed on probation, or, in extreme cases, be removed from the roster.
- (8.) In any case, if a pastor shall resign a church without giving and serving a thirty (30) day notice, as required by the bylaws, he/she shall not be eligible to try out for another church for ninety (90) days, unless the District Board shall rule a different disciplinary action.
- (9.) Whereas it is desirable, at times, for two (2) or more churches to merge, no merger shall be entered into without first petitioning and receiving consent of the District Executive Committee, and then a vote shall be held by the church congregation. All action shall be ratified by the District Board. No merger shall be considered at any time during pastoral try-outs or when a pastoral business meeting has been previously scheduled.
- (10.) At such a time that any Pentecostal Church of God churches agree upon a merger, a total and complete financial report shall be compiled by each church and one (1) copy of each be retained by the newly formed body and one (1) copy of each to be filed in the district office.
- (11.) All money derived from the sale of real property of any church, whose property is titled to the East Texas District, and/or shared by the district and the local church, shall be used for the relocation of that church, from which it was derived, for the purchasing of real property for the church and parsonage, if the previous location included a parsonage. In such cases where a church has been vacated for a period of six (6) months and left totally in the hands of the District Executive Committee, the property shall be sold and placed in the Church Relocation Fund to be used as needed.
- (12.) Monies received from the sale of a vacant church may be used as a grant for planting a new church.
- (13.) Inasmuch as churches are being questioned by the Internal Revenue Service as to their bookkeeping procedures, therefore, we recommend that all funds to any department of the East Texas District be made payable to that department and recorded in the district records.
- (14.) No Pentecostal Church of God pastor, or church, shall schedule any revival meetings, etc., which will conflict with regularly scheduled district meetings. (Youth Camp excluded.)
- (15.) When a church finds it necessary to send for a district or general officer we recommend that a special offering be taken for his expense.

ARTICLE SIX MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministerial Obligations

(a) All ministers are required to submit the standard renewal application annually to the district office, along with the proper fees, prior to the District Convention. Failure to comply will result in the minister's name being withheld from the bylaw book.

(b) Each credentialed minister shall report to the district office monthly and it shall include tithes. Each minister shall be delinquent if no report has been received within a one (1) month period. All delinquent ministers shall be sent letters notifying them of the importance of supporting the district office. If no support has been received after two (2) months, they shall be required to appear before the District Board for reinstatement.

(c) Each minister shall participate financially for the maintenance of the general offices by paying the sum of thirty dollars (\$30.00) each month, two dollars (\$2.00) of which shall go to support Messenger College, six dollars (\$6.00) for the support of the Department of Youth Ministries, one dollar (\$1.00) to the National Missions Department, with five dollars (\$5.00) being placed in the Benevolent Death Benefit Fund to be applied to death benefits only. Included in the monthly contributions shall be the following:

1. The usual application or renewal fee for credentials.

2. The subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger*.

3. Benevolent Death Benefit: **Only current gratis ministers (as of 12/31/2007) will be covered with a \$4,000 death benefit** (payable to the beneficiary upon death.)

(d) 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 half the regular rate (\$15.00 monthly) and would not be entitled to a separate subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger*.

(e) If said fees are not paid for a period of thirty (30) days, the minister will receive a letter of delinquency with a copy sent to the District office. If the minister is still delinquent after sixty (60) days, the credentials will be dropped by the General office and the District office will be notified.

(f) Any minister who receives a total of four (4) letters from the district office concerning tithing report within a period of six (6) months, he or she will be required to meet the District Board for explanation.

(g) A list of all fees due to the District Office by ministers and local churches shall be compiled annually and sent to all ministers and all churches before the first of each year.

(h) 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.

- (i) All ministers who are totally disabled, or are over sixty-five (65) years of age and inactive, shall be required to report only once annually.
- (j) The tenure of office of all district credentials expires on December 31st.
- (k) Any minister who holds credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God and also holds credentials with another organization shall be dropped from the ministerial list.

Section 2. Ministerial Fellowship

- (a) Our ministers are privileged to use the services of ministers of other churches of like faith as evangelists only. Any pastor or evangelist of the Pentecostal Church of God is privileged to labor in other churches when he deems it wise to do so for the up-building of the cause in his or her section providing he or she does not lend his or her effort to a neighboring antagonistic assembly or church, thereby injuring the Pentecostal Church of God congregation in the community.
- (b) Inasmuch that in times past many of our Pentecostal Church of God evangelists have suffered for the lack of a place to preach in our organization; it is recommended that the Pentecostal Church of God pastors be encouraged to use Pentecostal Church of God evangelists to hold revivals and preach special services for them.
- (c) All evangelists holding revivals for pastors shall encourage the congregations to be loyal to their pastors with their tithes and offerings.
- (d) For the purpose of strategically and wisely placing new works, and promoting the Pentecostal Church of God ministry over a broader geographical area, all new endeavors must be approved by the sectional presbyter and the District Bishop before the new work can begin. The nearest local PCG pastor will be consulted.
- (e) Ministers and workers are advised not to interfere with others having charge of a mission or church, whether it is by corresponding with members of the church, or otherwise affecting the influence of the leader. All inquiries or correspondence concerning the church, such as visiting the field, conducting meetings, etc., should be addressed to the pastor, or where there is not a pastor, such correspondence should be addressed to the deacons.
- (f) When differences arise they shall be settled privately, if possible, but if after honest effort this cannot be done, then those differing have a right to lay the matter before the District Board. If the situation involves charges of ministerial misconduct, or moral turpitude, the procedure shall follow "Article Eight." Under no circumstances shall personal accusations be allowed from the floor of the district meeting.
- (g) According to the bylaws, all ministers are amenable to the District Board, therefore any minister who is not working in harmony with the program of the Pentecostal Church of God in the district, section, the local church or in the organization as a whole, shall be called before the District Board and must make

amends agreeable to the board. Failure to do so may result in the removal of that minister's name from the ministerial list if the board so decides.

(h) Any minister who deliberately refuses to cooperate and back the program of the Pentecostal Church of God shall be prohibited from holding any office in the district, or pastoring one of the churches, unless approved by the District Board. When lack of cooperation for a three (3) month period is noted or brought to the attention of any of our District Board, the District Secretary-Treasurer shall notify said minister by letter to meet the District (or Sectional) Board, and he shall be dealt with according to the bylaws and that without having formal charges filed.

(i) Each minister, both pastor and evangelist shall make an effort in his or her respective field of labor to increase the support of the missionaries.

(j) In accordance with the State of Texas Family Code, only ministers holding credentials on the ordained and licensed level are authorized by the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God to officiate at wedding ceremonies.

Section 3. Biblical Standard for Ministry

(a) All candidates for ordination, license, or exhorter's license shall have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4, with the initial physical evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, prior to submitting an application.

(b) With Regard to Worldliness

Whereas, it is acknowledged that righteousness cannot be legislated, it is also noted that ministers and their spouses are in a special category by virtue of their place of leadership; and it is the responsibility of the ministry to set the example to the laity and incoming young ministers, as we are exhorted by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 4:12—"Be thou an example of the believers"; and whereas, there is an ever increasing flood of worldliness infiltrating the Pentecostal ranks around the world; be it recommended, that the Pentecostal Church of God of the East Texas District stand against the adoption of these trends toward worldliness.

1. Abstinence from Alcohol

We urge all believers to avoid the satanic tool of alcohol which destroys lives, damns souls, and blights society:

(Scriptural reason) A studied review of the Scriptures affirms a stern warning against intoxicating drink and a call to separation from this evil for the purpose of better service to God and mankind.

(Leviticus 10:8-11; Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-33; 31:4, 5; Luke 21:34, 36; Galatians 21:23; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 3:3)

(Social reason) Current social abuses and the public outrage over the high cost of alcohol in terms of human misery, death, and destruction of property cry out with urgency for the Church of Jesus Christ to oppose firmly any use whatsoever of a beverage which so insidiously afflicts and binds the bodies and minds of men and women.

2. Refrain from Gambling

The Bible instructs believers, “whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31), and to “avoid every kind of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22), it certainly precludes gambling. God is not glorified when people put their trust in chance rather than in the provision of the Lord. We believe gambling is evil because it violates principles of God’s Word concerning stewardship, consideration of others, and the dignity of honest labor. We encourage all to refrain from gambling for the following reasons:

- Gambling is a disregard of biblical teaching on responsible stewardship. (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Gambling involves a chance to gain at the expense and suffering of others.
- Gambling is inconsistent with the work ethic of scripture (Proverbs 12:11; 1 Thessalonians 3:10)
- Gambling is habit forming. (1 Corinthians 6:12; Galatians 5:23)

(c) With Regard to Sexual Immorality

1. The East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God believes that sexual acts outside of marriage are prohibited as sinful. Sexual acts outside of marriage include but are not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, bestiality, pornography, prostitution, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, sodomy, polygamy, polyamory, or same-sex sexual acts. (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7–23; 20:10–21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27–28; 15:19; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–13; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:17–19; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4).

2. We believe that homosexuality is condemned by scripture and is incompatible with Christian ministry; therefore the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God will not recognize or credential any person who practices a homosexual or lesbian lifestyle. (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Jude 7)

3. Due to our biblical stand on homosexuality; we will not recognize relationships of the same sex as being healthy to the home, neither will our churches or ministers perform wedding ceremonies for two people of the same sex.

4. Promotion of Sexual Practices Condemned by the Scriptures

Any minister or church of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God that intentionally promotes, participates, or partners in support of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) agenda, community, or any other organization, campaign, or political initiative that would condone or accommodate homosexuality or any other sexual expression condemned by the Scriptures shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

5. The East Texas District adopts from the General Bylaws (Article II and Article III) their stand on pornography, obscenity, and homosexuality.

Section 4. License and Ordination

(a) Candidates for ordination shall have at least two (2) years proven ministry as licentiates, and shall have completed the Minister's Study Series Level III, or have equivalent to comply with the district bylaw provision. (Note: Candidates for licenses shall have completed the Minister's Study Series Level II, or have equivalent education.) However, at the discretion of the Credentials Committee, any acceptable candidate of several years proven ministry can be ordained.

(b) The Credentials Committee, appointed at the annual district meeting, shall serve during the meeting. As far as possible, all matters of granting license and ordination shall be limited to the annual business meeting.

(c) Applicants for fellowship shall have their applications signed by the pastor and countersigned by the presbyter of the section where the applicant resides at least thirty (30) days before license is granted.

(d) Those carrying credentials as ordained or licensed ministers shall devote their time to the call that God has given them, unless sickness incapacitates them; and ministers of the Pentecostal Church of God who live in vicinity where there is a Pentecostal Church of God, shall assist the said local church with a whole-hearted cooperation. Each licensed and ordained minister must preach at least twelve (12) times a year. This may include any preaching assignment, such as radio ministry, nursing home, jail services, etc. Also, full consideration shall be given to the elderly minister.

(e) In recognition of the fact that ordination is the highest goal to which a minister may attain, therefore it is reserved for those who have sufficient time in the active ministry to prove their qualifications for this high office; no person shall be ordained to the ministry who is not in the "full-time ministry" at the time application is made for ordination, and who does not give clear evidence of his or her intention to remain in the "full-time ministry." The term "full-time ministry" refers to one who is:

- (1) Pastor,
- (2) Full-time evangelist (one who conducts revivals nine [9] months out of the year),
- (3) Duly appointed or elected co-pastor or associate/assistant pastor.

Section 5. Exhorters

(a) All novices or beginners shall be issued exhorter's credentials after the completion of the Minister's Study Series Level I; which shall be held for a period of one (1) year. However, at the discretion of the Credentials Committee any acceptable candidate, with a proven ministry, can be licensed.

(b) All exhorter ministers shall pay one-half of their tithe to the district and one-half of their tithe to the local church tithe program. If in good standing, he/she shall be seated in the annual convention after paying the registration fee. This shall also include the exhorter minister's companion, if properly registered.

(c) All applicants who meet the District Board for exhorter credentials, shall be assigned to the church they are attending at the time the application is made, for a period of one (1) year, providing the church is a Pentecostal Church of God or an independent church pastored by a Pentecostal Church of God pastor. Should

there be a reason to change this assignment, it must be in agreement with the two (2) pastors involved. The Sectional Presbyter shall be notified of the change. He shall then notify the district office.

(d) No exhorter shall be granted a license without the consent of the pastor under whom he has worked as an exhorter, and has completed the Minister's Study Series Level II.

(e) After one (1) year an exhorter shall be allowed to apply for the position of pastor if eligible to promote to the licensed level of credentials.

(f) All exhorters shall renew by the first of each calendar year.

ARTICLE SEVEN FINANCE

Section 1. General Fund (Tithe Fund)

(a) There shall be a general fund, and all district finance shall go into the one fund. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall have charge of this fund. All receipts which are not specifically designated by the bylaws shall remain in the general fund to pay the expenses of the district office.

(b) All pastoring ministers shall pay seventy-five percent (75%) of their personal tithes along with their offerings into the District Tithe Fund. Ministers who are not pastoring or ministers in an evangelistic work shall pay one-half (1/2) of their tithe to the local church and the other one-half (1/2) to the district. The local church secretary shall keep a written record of such tithes paid into the church, and shall give a written report to the District Secretary-Treasurer in May every year in order that it may appear on the minister's record.

(c) Credentials fees for new ministers may be prorated, provided it is three (3) months (ninety [90] days) after January first.

(d) Fifteen percent (15%) of all the district tithe income shall be placed in the Home Missions Fund; in any case where income is insufficient to pay incumbent expenses, the Executive Committee is empowered to reduce back to five percent (5%) during the extent of the crisis or emergency.

(e) Out of the District Tithe Fund, the District Bishop shall be paid a set salary of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per month plus all personal love offerings. All offerings except offerings taken for him personally on the field shall be paid into the district office. The District Bishop shall devote all his time to this office and shall be given a three (3) week paid vacation each fiscal year. In addition to the present salary of the District Bishop, nineteen hundred dollars (\$1,900.00) per month shall be paid from the tithe fund for travel expense. Each month, two hundred dollars (\$200.00) from the tithe fund shall be deposited into a retirement account for the benefit of the District Bishop. Upon the completion of his tenure as District Bishop, the retirement fund will remain in said Bishop's name. At the District Board Meeting prior to District Convention, the Board shall review the salary of the District Bishop and make recommendation to adjust if necessary.

- (f) Out of the District Tithe Fund, the District Secretary-Treasurer shall receive an expense allotment of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) per month.
- (g) The District Presbyter shall receive an expense allotment of one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175.00) per month.
- (h) The District Women's Ministry Director shall be paid one hundred dollars (\$100.00) every three (3) months, this being the only expense to be drawn from the District Tithe Fund for the expense of the District Women's Ministry Director.
- (i) All Social Security taxes shall be paid out of the District Tithe Fund for the District Bishop and the District Youth Director.
- (j) The district shall contribute four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00) per month toward hospitalization insurance coverage for the District Bishop and the District Youth Director.
- (k) The District Bishop shall receive mileage to attend the funeral of an East Texas District minister, or a member of the minister's immediate family, to represent the district.
- (l) The District Board shall set a budget annually for the District Bishop, District Presbyter, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Youth Director and District Women's Ministry Director to attend General Board meetings, Central Committee meetings, Summerfest and General Convention.
- (m) Thirty cents (30¢) per mile shall be paid out of the District Tithe Fund to the Sectional Presbyters, the District Presbyter and the District Secretary-Treasurer, to help cover travel expense for District Board Meetings, plus one (1) night's motel lodging when needed.
- (n) No love offerings are to be taken at the District Convention, and all offerings taken at the Bible conference and district fellowship meeting, over and above the expense of the meeting, shall be placed in the District Tithe Fund.
- (o) When a church becomes a dependent church, that is, ten (10) or less in Sunday school for thirty (30) days and there are outstanding obligations, upon approval of the District Board, the pastor shall only be required to send fifty percent (50%) of his tithe to the district office and the other fifty percent (50%) shall be placed in the local church treasury.
1. When one of our ministers begins a new church, from the ground up, fifty percent (50%) of the minister's tithe shall be placed in the local church treasury for not more than six (6) months. If the church is self supporting in less than six (6) months, in the opinion of the District Board, this rule shall not apply.
 2. Each pastor who builds a new church shall be required to sign an agreement with the district that the church will be deeded to the district at the earliest possible date in order to qualify for fifty percent (50%) of his tithe.

Section 2. Miscellaneous Financial Rules

- (a) The books of all departments of East Texas District shall be balanced at the end of the fiscal year and written financial reports shall be furnished to the

District Convention. Furthermore, all books shall be audited annually and the results made known to the convention at its annual meeting.

(b) Whereas the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income a ministry-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses in maintaining and providing a home, and/or the ministry can provide the minister a home; and Whereas the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God compensates each minister in the exercise of his ministry who serves the district in the capacity of a district official; Therefore each official, prior to the beginning of the calendar year, shall be allowed to set a designated portion of his/her monthly income as an allowance for housing and that designated portion per month shall apply until otherwise provided.

(c) East Texas District Pentecostal Church of God evangelists shall be allowed to use ten thousand two hundred dollars (\$10,200.00) annually (an average of eight hundred fifty dollars [\$850.00] per month) of their monthly income as housing, furnishings, utilities, allowance, according to Internal Revenue Service regulations.

(d) Any regularly appointed and active world missionary or Indian missionary shall have his ministerial credentials renewed free of charge.

(e) All East Texas exhorters and licensed ministers who go into the armed forces shall have their credentials renewed as long as they are in the active service of our country. Their responsibility shall remain unchanged. They shall pay for their Messenger.

(f) There will be no charge of interest for churches receiving a loan from the church relocation board.

(g) All loans in the excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) made by the district, shall be approved by the District Board at a regular called meeting.

(h) The District Board and/or Executive Committee shall be authorized to use monies for emergency purposes from the Church Relocation Fund only.

(i) Before any funds can be transferred from one account to another, there must be written approval from each member of the Executive Committee and such records be kept on file in the district office.

Section 3. Automobile Ownership

(a) The East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God may furnish an automobile to either the District Bishop or the District Youth Director, at the discretion of the said official.

(b) The East Texas District may grant said official full and exclusive use of the automobile; however, it is understood and agreed that sole ownership of the automobile shall vest in the denomination, which shall maintain full jurisdiction over said automobile and its use.

(c) Payments on the car, insurance coverage and mileage will be withheld from the mileage account of the individual each month.

(d) Credit cards for gasoline, in the name of the organization, may be given to any authorized personnel, and all mileage, along with invoices, on official

business, will be reported to the District Secretary-Treasurer of East Texas District.

(e) Any repairs and other costs, such as tires, batteries, etc., shall be borne by the individual using the automobile.

(f) At the expiration of his term in office he shall accept the title of the car along with all financial obligations.

(g) In all insurance matters, a rider shall be attached to the insurance policies fully indemnifying the organization against loss, in order to prevent suits against the organization.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Discipline

(a) 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, one (1) to be sent by the District Bishop to the defendant. The District Bishop shall appoint a suitable place and convenient time, not less than ten (10) days in advance of the hearing of the charges.

(b) No question can be asked nor any evidence be submitted, unless the question and evidence have a direct bearing on the charges already filed. It is the duty of the chairman to enforce this procedure.

(c) The Court of Inquiry shall consist of the District Bishop and the local presbyter, together with any district or general officers present. Should either party be dissatisfied with the decision rendered, he may appeal to the next District Convention, and there take the matter before the entire board present, whose decision is final, except as it may concern ordained ministers who may appeal to the General Board, whose decision is final. The defendant shall be considered innocent until proven guilty.

(d) If the defendant confesses and truly repents and shows a contrite heart, recommendation is made for leniency, and if possible, full restoration, after a suitable time of probation.

(e) If the charges are against the District Bishop, the procedure shall be the same except the District Presbyter shall act as chairman.

(f) If the charges are proven true and of sufficient serious nature, the defendant's name may be ordered removed from the ministerial list. The defendant shall have the right to appeal to the General Board, whose decision is final.

(g) If the defendant is innocent and the charges are false, the accusers shall be deemed guilty of malicious slander, trouble-making and causing division, and as such may be disciplined, even to the extent of the removal of their names from the ministers' list if necessary.

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

(i) Any accused minister, after having been found innocent by the District Board, upon request, may have a letter of recommendation mailed to all or as many ministers as the accused may so desire, confirming his innocence

ARTICLE NINE

Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

Section 1. Affirmation of Marriage

The East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God affirms that marriage is a permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one natural born man and one natural born woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and the biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. (Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–9; Mark 10:5–9; Ephesians 5:31–33).

Section 2. Marriage Designed by God

Marriage is a covenant designed by God and is a sacred covenant relationship between husband and wife for a lifetime. The sanctity of marriage and family is upheld in Scripture. It is understood, therefore, that divorce is the breaking of the marriage covenant and represents less than the ideal. We further understand that sin has disrupted marriage and family relationships. Divorce is not encouraged in Scripture, for the grace of God encourages reconciliation. Yet because of the hardness and stubbornness of the human heart, reconciliation is not always possible. The New Testament does reflect a higher standard for the ministry because of the responsibility of leadership in the Church and that the minister’s life must model his/her message. We seek to comprehend and practice a balance between God’s grace and holding the standard set forth in God’s Word.

Section 3. Divorced and Remarried Ministers.

No divorced and remarried Christian shall be granted Credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God except in the following cases:

- (a) The divorce occurred prior to the applicant’s initial understanding and acceptance of salvation evidenced by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and further, the applicant did not demonstrate a lifestyle consistent with devotion to Biblical principles. We recognize annulment as a marriage that never legally occurred. (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- (b) The divorce was for the cause of fornication or sexual immorality on the part of the applicant’s former spouse (Matthew 5:32; 19:9), where the applicant was faithful to the marriage vows during the marriage.
- (c) The divorce occurred when an unbeliever departs from a believer (1 Corinthians 7:15). It must be determined that every effort was made personally and legally to save the marriage, and said divorce occurred against the will of the applicant.

ARTICLE TEN

District Convention

Section 1. Location:

The District Board shall establish the time and place of the annual district convention at a location within the district.

Section 2. Notice:

(a) Notice of the time and place of the annual district conference shall be provided to each church within the district not less than sixty (60) days in advance of the convention.

(b) Each year a list of district officials to be elected at the convention and convention announcements shall be included in the annual mailing regarding camp meeting.

Section 3. Convention Voting Body

The convention voting body shall consist of the following:

(a) All ordained, licensed, and exhorter ministers serving within the district whose title and fees are current, unless they have already accepted a position in another district;

(b) The spouse of any ordained, licensed, and exhorter minister serving within the district;

(c) The surviving, unmarried spouse of a minister in good standing, who faithfully attends and supports a local Pentecostal Church of God, whose Christian experience remains without question;

(d) Church delegates consisting of one (1) delegate per one hundred (100) active church members or fraction thereof (not Sunday school attendance) whose names appear on the church roster.

(e) For elections, absentee ballots may be accepted by the convention from ministers and spouses for the following reasons only:

- (1) The minister/spouse is personally ill;
- (2) The minister/spouse is experiencing serious illness or death in his/her own family;
- (3) The minister is experiencing serious illness in his church;
- (4) The minister is conducting a funeral or officiating at a wedding; or
- (5) The minister has an unavoidable work situation that prevents him from attending.

In such cases, the minister/spouse shall send his/her absentee ballot to the convention with an explanation as to why he/she is absent, along with his/her proper registration fees for the convention. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall then check all other qualifications pertaining to a voting member of the convention body listed above. If all requirements are met, the absentee ballot will be accepted. If all requirements are not met, the absentee ballot with a letter

of explanation, along with registration fee, shall be returned to the minister. However, any minister or spouse over the age of seventy (70) years whose health will not allow him/her to attend the District Convention may send their absentee ballot, along with their registration, and the ballot shall be accepted.

Section 4. Registration:

Each minister shall pay a registration fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00), each minister's spouse shall pay ten dollars (\$10.00), and each delegate shall pay a registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

Section 5. Officers of the Convention:

(a) **Presiding Officer:**

The District Bishop shall preside at the annual district convention.

(b) **Convention Secretary:**

The District Secretary-Treasurer shall be the convention secretary and shall be responsible to see that the minutes of the convention are properly taken. To fulfill this responsibility the District Secretary-Treasurer may procure the services of a professional stenographer and this expense shall be included within the convention budget.

(c) **Parliamentarian:**

A parliamentarian shall be appointed by the District Bishop not less than ninety (90) days prior to any convention. It shall be the duty of the parliamentarian to advise the chair, not make ruling on points of order. Only the chair has this authority.

Section 6. Order of Business:

The following shall be the general order of business for the annual district convention. The District Bishop shall have the authority to alter this agenda as circumstances warrant with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the convention body who are present and voting.

- (a) Call to Order
- (b) Appointment of Registration Committee
- (c) Appointment of Financial Committee
- (d) Appointment of Entertainment Committee
- (e) Appointment of Roster Committee
- (f) Appointment of Program Committee
- (g) Appointment of Rules of Order Committee
- (h) Appointment of Publicity Committee
- (i) Appointment of Auditing Committee
- (j) Appointment of Resolutions Committee
- (k) Report of Registration Committee
- (l) Report of Rules of Order Committee
- (m) Report of District Bishop
- (n) Report of District Presbyter
- (o) Report of Auditing Committee

- (p) Report of District Secretary-Treasurer
- (q) Report of the Women’s Ministries’ Director
- (r) Unfinished Business
- (s) Report of Resolutions Committee
- (t) Report of
- (u) Election of Officers
- (v) New Business
- (w) Adjournment

Section 7. Convention Rules and Procedures

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the convention in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or any other rules properly adopted by the convention.

- (a) By a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, these bylaws may be added to, or amended, or repealed.
- (b) All resolutions presented to the convention shall be printed.
- (c) All resolutions shall be provided to the Resolutions Committee, by the maker, in typed form to Resolutions Committee.
- (d) The time limit for the introduction of resolutions shall set at 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday night of the Annual District Convention. This time limit for the introduction of resolutions shall be announced at every service and at each daily business meeting.
- (e) The Resolutions committee shall number each resolution according to its article, section and paragraph.
- (f) All personal and financial reports must be distributed during convention registration.
- (g) All financial statements provided for the convention constituency shall have all receipts categorized.
- (h) A record shall be made of the District Convention budget, its receipts and disbursements, and shall become a printed part of the constitution and bylaws.

2018 Convention Budget Report

Receipts

Budget Offering Received.....	\$10,488.54
Convention Registration	\$1,100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$11,588.54

Disbursements

Audit Committee Expense.....	\$282.00
Executives & Speaker (meals & hotel).....	\$3,742.56
Convention Facilities (utilities).....	\$570.88
Rev. Brian McDonald (Speaker honorarium/travel)	\$1,750.00
Rev. Mark Rector (Music honorarium/travel)	\$950.00
Rev. Husong/Bedard/Villa/Murphy (musicians).....	\$1,300.00
Rev. David Hunt (Honorarium Memorial Service)	\$100.00
Rev. Vicki Cheek (Stenographer).....	\$150.00

Entertainment (snacks)	\$165.65
Children's Church (Atkasson)	\$500.00
Convention Supplies (badges, plaques, snacks, etc.)....	\$1,015.53
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$10,526.62

- (i) After the nominating ballots are cast for district officials at convention, the personal records of those nominated shall be read before they are eligible to be considered for office.
- (j) The District Secretary-Treasurer shall give proper explanation when a record is read, so that the convention will have a clear and concise view of the candidate. No record shall be read just as it appears on the books, but with explanation.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Standing Rules

- (a) Whereas an extreme emergency may arise, such as when the pastor shall be found conspiring or plotting or planning against the welfare of the Pentecostal Church of God in any of its congregations for the purpose of gaining control of the real or personal property of a congregation or from the Pentecostal Church of God, the convention authorizes any general, district or local officer, or representative of the Pentecostal Church of God, to take possession of the property or properties and hold it in the name of the Pentecostal Church of God until such time as the emergency has passed.
- (b) The East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God shall establish an outlined legend of its boundaries, including each section's boundaries, on a Texas map.
- (c) The surviving spouse of a minister in good standing, who faithfully attends and supports a local Pentecostal Church of God, and as long as their Christian experience remains without question, and they remain unmarried, shall be accorded full voting membership in their section and District Convention.
- (d) The district Women's Ministry and Youth Ministry books shall be audited each year before District Convention by the Auditing Committee.
- (e) In an effort to expedite communication among the fellowship, and aid in particular, evangelists, and those ministers who are new to the fellowship in their efforts to become acquainted and to make their ministries known, that the telephone numbers and complete addresses, including zip codes, of all ministers and churches of the district, shall be printed in the directory of the East Texas District bylaw book.
- (f) A master constitution and bylaws record shall be kept in the district office of all resolutions heretofore and hereafter passed in the East Texas District. Also, all current resolutions pertaining to the district be compiled in a bylaw book and printed for distribution to the district constituents.
- (g) The district bylaws shall be distributed on an annual basis. They shall be delivered to each minister by January first of each year.

(h) A historical statement of the East Texas District will be made as complete as possible and added thereto each new publication to keep it up to date, and printed as a preface to the bylaws.

(i) An index record or contents shall be made, and revised, with each publication and placed in the book.

(j) All ordinances and/or bylaws, that become obsolete and/or inactively in force because of purchase, sale or transfer of property, churches or offices shall be recorded only in the master plan ordinance and bylaw book.

(k) On each renewal application a question must be placed, asking each applicant if they are a member of a secret order or secret society.

(l) The District Bible Conference will be moved throughout the District in those churches determined by the District Board to have adequate facilities for this function.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Burial Fund

(a) All ministers, both licensed and ordained, together with all exhorters, shall be required to participate in the Burial Fund.

(b) The fees for the Burial Fund shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per minister or exhorter. Said fee shall be paid at the time of renewal of credentials. Spouses of ministers or exhorters may participate in the Burial Fund for an additional sum of ten dollars (\$10.00) per year. However, in the case of new credentials, participation of spouses is subject to the approval of the District Board. The burial fee shall be effective to December 31 of each year with thirty-one (31) days grace. There shall be no proration.

(c) Upon the death of the credentialed minister, the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be paid to his or her beneficiary for funeral expense. Upon the death of any other participant, "such as spouse or children," the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) shall be paid to his or her beneficiary for funeral expense.

(d) The Burial Fund shall be banked by the District Secretary-Treasurer separately from other district funds. It shall be placed in a savings account for the purpose of bearing interest. It shall not be used for any other purpose than to pay burial expenses of participants in the fund.

(e) The District Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to levy a per capita assessment upon each eligible participant, when and if the balance on hand of said budget shall fall below eleven hundred dollars (\$1,100.00).

(f) Any participant who shall fail to pay said assessment within thirty (30) days following receipt of notice, his beneficiary shall become ineligible to any benefits provided under this burial agreement as long as said assessment is unpaid.

(g) The surviving spouse of a minister in good standing who faithfully attends and supports a local Pentecostal Church of God, and as long as their Christian experience continues without question and they remain unmarried; and, any children of a deceased minister who faithfully attends and supports a local

Pentecostal Church of God and whose Christian experience continues without question, shall be given the option to continue participation in the Burial Fund program by paying the maximum fee, provided the option is exercised by January 1 of the year following the decease of the minister. This resolution is to be retroactive to include all those thus affected.

(h) Should any minister transfer to another district, withdraw or be dropped for any reason, the provision of the Burial Fund will be terminated without any refund of burial fee.

(i) Children of ministers, up to the age of eighteen (18) years, and handicapped children of ministers (no age limit), may be included in the Burial Fund program on an optional basis and at the same rate as the minister's spouse.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Home Missions

(a) A Home Missions Director shall be appointed by the District Board to serve a one (1) year term. The District Board shall nominate three names from the ordained ministers who have had residence in the District for a minimum of two (2) years. From the nominees, the Board will elect a District Home Missions Director. All nominees must have exhibited a special interest and a proven record of faithful support to Home Missions both on the District and the National level. The Home Missions Director shall promote and oversee the Home Missions program on a district level. He or she shall work with the District Home Missions Committee to promote growth and expansion of the East Texas District Pentecostal Church of God. Travel expenses (not to exceed that which is provided for executive committee for traveling to National Meetings.)

(b) Fifteen percent (15%) of all the district tithing income of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God shall be placed in a Home Missions fund for the use of Home Missions endeavors exclusively. No money shall be transferred out of the Home Missions fund into another fund. The purpose of this fund is to plant new works or to build new churches on East Texas District properties that are fully deeded which have been declared new works by the Home Missions Committee and the district board. To be declared a new work the church would have to meet the following criteria:

- (1) Property and buildings must be fully deeded to the East Texas District.
- (2) Must have sufficient property for growth.
- (3) Must be in good location with potential.
- (4) Must be without pastor and congregation.
- (5) Existing sanctuary must be determined to be non-repairable.
- (6) Any new church that is built with Home Missions funds from the East Texas District will have a pastor for the first two (2) years that is appointed by the East Texas District Home Missions Committee.

(c) In an endeavor to put the work on a permanent basis, ministers or evangelists opening new fields should notify the Sectional Presbyter.

(d) A full and complete written report shall be made annually on Home Missions funds, and each minister in the district shall receive a copy of the same.

(e) Each pastor who builds a new church shall be required to sign an agreement with the district that the church will be joint deeded to the district at the earliest possible date in order to qualify for fifty percent (50%) of his tithe.

When one of our ministers begins a new church from the ground up, fifty percent (50%) of the minister's tithe shall be placed in the local church treasury for not more than six (6) months. If the church is self-supporting in less than six (6) months, in the opinion of the District Board, this rule shall not apply.

(f) Home Missions money shall be used exclusively for Home Missions work and at no time shall any other department borrow from this fund. Also, each quarter, a report of the Home Missions Fund shall be furnished to the ministers of the East Texas District under a separate cover.

(g) No money shall be granted from the Home Missions Fund for establishing a church unless the minister has a proven ministry.

(h) The Home Missions Committee shall meet at least once a year and shall be paid mileage out of the Home Missions Fund.

(i) The Executive Committee, with recommendation of Home Missions Committee and Sectional Presbyter, shall be authorized to advance matching funds up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), out of the Home Missions Fund to any section that is beginning a Home Missions Church. The Home Missions church pastor, and said local body, must agree to jointly deed the church and the property with the East Texas District in order to receive these matching funds.

(j) When a mission is established using Home Missions funds, and/or funds from a contributing church or section, if the mission fails, the Home Missions funds and the section from which the original money was derived, shall have first claim on all the assets of the mission that remains. And, if a local church has contributed money for a mission and it fails, these funds shall be returned to the section in which church is located; and if there are assets more than enough to cover these refunds, then the remainder shall be the property of Home Missions. Furthermore, if a mission develops into a church and afterward, within five (5) years, it fails, this resolution shall be applied.

(k) All ordained and licensed ministers and Pentecostal Church of God churches of the East Texas District, are recommended to contribute the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) per month, exhorter ministers two dollars (\$2.00) per month, into the Home Missions Fund for the purpose of building new churches.

(l) The East Texas District Home Missions Department shall develop a committee of volunteer workers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc., to donate and assist with their time to help build Home Missions churches.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

District Campgrounds

Campground Financial Plan

(a) Assessment:

Ministers:

Exhorter Ministers \$3.00 per month

Licensed and ordained Ministers \$5.00 per month

Churches:

0-25 Average Sunday A.M. Worship Service..... \$3.00 per month

26-50 Average Sunday A.M. Worship Service..... \$4.00 per month

51 and up in Average Sunday A.M. Worship Service \$10.00 per month

(b) All retired ministers and missionaries serving on foreign fields shall be exempted from campground assessment fee.

(c) No church delegate can register to vote at District Convention or a special called election unless the current year of campground fees are paid to date.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

Christian Education

Section 1. Department of Christian Education

(a) Inasmuch as there is a need for Sunday school, discipleship, and ministry training in our district, a Department of Christian Education shall be established and shall function under the direction of the District Christian Education Director.

(b) Each church in our district is encouraged to send regular support to the District Christian Education Fund, with a recommended level of at least five dollars (\$5.00) per month from each church.

(c) The month of March shall be designated as Loyalty Month for a Sunday school promotion program. The purpose of such a month shall be to encourage loyalty to the church, the Sunday school and the entire program of the Lord.

(d) The month of October shall be designated as Sunday School Enlargement Month.

(e) It is recommended that our constituency be encouraged to attend the Sunday school conventions, and all regional, district and local Sunday school promotion revivals.

Section 2. Director of Christian Education

(a) The Director of Christian Education shall be appointed annually by the District Executive Board.

(b) The director shall be an ordained minister with at least five (5) years experience in the ministry, and shall have a well-rounded knowledge of building and maintaining Sunday schools.

(c) The Director of Christian Education shall nominate members to serve on a Christian Education Board. The District Bishop and District Board shall approve the nominees.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

East Texas Ministry Institute

1. The East Texas Ministry Institute exists to provide training to individuals seeking credentials with the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God, as well as, refresher training and elective classes for ministry and laity. The institute shall meet the educational needs of the East Texas District as warranted by the District Bishop and/or the District Board.
2. The East Texas Ministry Institute shall be under the direction of the District Christian Education Director.
3. The District Christian Education Director shall be charged with recruiting instructors and planning for course offerings consistent with the needs of the East Texas District.
4. The Christian Education Director will work closely with the District Bishop, District Board, and the office of the General Secretary to insure that all ministry training meets credentialing requirements.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN

Department of Women's Ministries

Section 1. Officers

- (a) The officers of the District Women's Ministries shall be a Director and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- (b) Said officers shall be financed by the Women's Ministries from the local tithe of the Women's Ministries, and by such additional offerings as shall be deemed necessary within their organization.
- (c) The Women's Ministries Director of the East Texas District shall receive a tithe (ten percent 10%) of all net profit-earning programs in addition to what she already receives.
- (d) Each year following convention, a letter shall be written to all pastors and local Women's Ministries presidents, notifying each church of the mailing address of the District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer and/or the District Women's Ministries Director.

Section 2. Qualifications of Officers

Part 1. Women's Ministries Director

- (a) The District Women's Ministries Director shall be a Holy Ghost filled member of the Women's Ministries in good standing, and shall have resided one (1) year in the district.

(b) The Women's Ministries Director shall be elected to serve a term of two (2) years.

Part 2. Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer

(a) The District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the District Women's Ministries Director and the District Bishop.

Section 3. Women's Ministries Office Finance (a) Ten percent (10%) of the net from all profit-earning programs shall go into the District Women's Ministries' Treasury, for the operating expenses of the District Women's Ministries' office.

**PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Preamble

Whereas, it has pleased God to call, through His Son, in these 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 young people, desire more of the encouragement and blessing which is derived by associating with other groups of Pentecostal young people and desire to unite in a larger cooperative fellowship and Christian service, therefore be it resolved: That we recognize ourselves as an association of young people of the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God, and shall with mutual agreement, enter into a covenant of service for our Lord and be governed by the following constitution and bylaws of the East Texas District.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be "Pentecostal Church of God Department of Youth Ministries."

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of this society shall be to encourage Christian fellowship among its members and others; to cultivate Christian virtue and development; to study the Word of God and promote a life of prayer; to seek to increase acts of charity and serve in the visiting of the sick and relieve the afflicted and unfortunate; to win others to Christ by clean living and personal work; and, to develop inherent talent and gifts of the Spirit toward developing such as are called by the Lord into the ministry.

ARTICLE III

Part One—Officers

Section 1.

The officers of the East Texas District Youth Ministries shall be a District Youth Director, a District Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer and a Sectional Youth Director in each section.

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the District Youth Director, the Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer and the District Bishop of the East Texas District. All members must be present for the committee to function.

(b) The Youth Ministries officers shall cooperate with the District Board, and all Youth Ministries activity shall be under the supervision of the District Bishop.

Part Two—Qualifications of Officers

Section 1. District Youth Director

(a) The District Youth Director shall be an ordained or licensed minister, male or female, filled with the Holy Spirit, whose life bears record of a clean, Christian testimony, between the ages of twenty-one (21) and forty (40) years inclusive, and must reside in and be credentialed with the East Texas District for one (1) year. Any licensed minister elected to the District Youth Director position would be required to seek ordination as soon as possible.

(b) The Director shall be elected by the voting constituency of the district at the annual convention, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, and shall serve a term of two (2) years.

Section 2. District Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer

(a) The District Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age inclusive, male or female, filled with the Holy Spirit, whose life bears record of a clean, Christian testimony, with at least one (1) year's residence in the district.

(b) He shall be appointed by the District Board for a two (2) year term at the same time of election of the District Youth Director.

Section 3. Sectional Youth Director

(a) The Sectional Youth Director shall be between the ages of eighteen (18) and forty (40) years, inclusive, filled with the Holy Spirit, whose life bears record of a clean, Christian testimony, with previous experience in the Youth program.

(b) The Sectional Youth Director shall be appointed by the District Youth Director, the Sectional Presbyter and the local pastor of the candidate.

(c) In the event the office of Sectional Youth Director is vacated for any cause, the Assistant Sectional Youth Director shall assume office and fill the unexpired term. In the event there is no Assistant Sectional Youth Director, a new Sectional Youth Director shall be appointed by the District Youth Director, the Sectional Presbyter and the local pastor of the candidate.

(d) In each section, where it is feasible, an Assistant Sectional Youth Director shall be appointed by the District Youth Director, the Sectional Presbyter and the local pastor of the candidate, and his qualifications shall be the same as the Sectional Youth Director.

(e) The Assistant Sectional Youth Director shall act as the Sectional Youth Director when the Sectional Youth Director is absent, sick or otherwise incapacitated, and shall assume the Sectional Youth Director's office upon his death or resignation.

ARTICLE IV

Duties of Officers

Section 1. District Youth Director

- (a) The Director shall have the responsibility of conducting all Youth rallies in the district.
- (b) The District Youth Director shall be responsible to plan and supervise youth camp each year in the East Texas District. He shall plan one (1) week for the juniors in cooperation with the district director of the Junior Department, and one (1) week for the seniors. The camp shall be conducted at a time and place mutually agreed upon by the Youth Ministries Department and the District Board. The rules, regulations, speakers, planned expenses and all other plans of the District Youth Director or Department shall be subject to, and approved by, the East Texas District Board before becoming final. From the receipts of the district camps, the District Youth Director shall receive six hundred dollars (\$600.00) for the purpose of a vacation allowance.
- (c) The Director shall use his/her influence in organizing and inviting new groups into the Youth Ministries and encouraging the local groups.
- (d) The Director shall consult the District Bishop in all matters pertaining to his/her office.
- (e) The Director shall give to the Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer, once each month, an itemized report of all monies received and all his/her activities.
- (f) The District Youth Director shall devote his/her full-time to the office. In the event finances for the Director drop below a livable income level, the District Board shall be empowered to allow the Director to take a part-time job.
- (g) The Director is a member of the District Board, unless the District Youth Director is a woman.

Section 2. District Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer

- (a) He shall keep a record of the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee.
- (b) He shall keep a record of the names and addresses of the officers of each local group, with the number of each group. This information shall be furnished by the local group upon request.
- (c) He shall be responsible for placing a report of each Sectional District Rally in *The Pentecostal Messenger*.
- (d) He shall notify each local group in advance of coming rallies and other special meetings.
- (e) He shall keep a complete financial report for the district Youth Ministries Department.
- (f) He shall send each pastor and each local group a monthly financial report either by letter or Youth Ministries Bulletin.
- (g) The District Youth Ministries Secretary-Treasurer shall be paid a salary in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per month from the Youth Ministries treasury.

Section 3. Sectional Youth Directors

- (a) They shall conduct rallies in the absence of the District Youth Director.
- (b) They shall cooperate with the pastors and the local young people's leaders.
- (c) The Sectional Youth Directors shall familiarize themselves with all of the district Youth program, so that they may assist each local church in their area, and become more familiar and aware of the Youth program and its ministries on a district and national level. Also, they shall promote more local participation in the District Youth program.
- (d) The Sectional Youth Director shall contact each pastor and/or local youth director in his section before each monthly rally, for the purpose of promoting fellowship and encouraging attendance in all sectional meetings; and, at the time of the election of the Sectional Youth Director, the voting constituency shall set a certain amount to cover the expense involved in contacting the pastors, making ample provision for the Sectional Youth Director. Also, each pastor shall be contacted from one (1) to ten (10) days prior to the rally.
- (e) The outgoing Sectional Youth Director shall be responsible for presenting all records, materials, etc., relating to any sectional function he/she is promoting to the Sectional Presbyter in order for a more proficient and smooth transition of duties to the new Sectional Youth Director. The Sectional Presbyter shall work with the District Youth Director in transferring these records and materials.

ARTICLE V

Finance

- (a) Each local group shall take an offering each month to be sent to the District Youth Director for the support of the office.
- (b) When a district or general officer visits a local Youth group, an offering shall be taken for his expense.
- (c) Whereas the East Texas District Youth Ministries Department is assessed ten dollars (\$10.00) per church annually whose residence is in the district, as district pro rata cost of the national budget; it is therefore recommended, that each church participate annually with a minimum of ten dollars (\$10.00) during the district Youth Ministries budget drive to help pay the district Youth Ministries national budget assessment.
- (d) The District Youth Director's income, for the month in which youth camp occurs, shall be supplemented from the youth camp receipts. The amount of the supplement shall be determined by taking an average of the previous four months rally offerings. In the event there are not enough funds in the youth camp receipts to supplement the District Youth Director's income, his income shall be supplemented out of the District Tithe Fund.
- (e) One-half (1/2) of the income of the District Youth Director shall be designated for travel expense and one-half (1/2) shall be for his/her salary.
- (f) The District Youth Director shall receive a tithe (ten percent 10%) of all net profit-earning programs of the District Youth Ministries Department in addition to what he/she already receives.

ARTICLE VI

Standing Rules

(a) Each section shall set a minimum budget for the support of the District Youth Director.

(b) Be it resolved that all resolutions offered to any committee not be accepted if not properly signed by the qualified author of the resolution.

(c) **YOUTH MINISTRIES 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 into the Holy Ghost; and,

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

THEREFORE, WE THE PENTECOSTAL YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, 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 and exhibitions not edifying to the Kingdom of God; and,

KNOWING that Satan will do all he can to hinder us, we will keep ourselves free from all forms of gambling, from tobacco, from intoxicating beverages, from drugs that are physically and mentally harmful to the body; and, we will keep ourselves free 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 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 to 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.

ARTICLE VII

Youth Camp

(a) The District Board shall appoint a youth camp committee consisting of one (1) member from each active section. These members, together with the District Bishop, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the District Presbyter, and the District Youth Director, as chairman, shall constitute the full membership of the board. This committee shall serve for two (2) years, and shall be encouraged to attend at least one week of youth camp each year. A new committee shall be appointed on alternate years from the District Youth Director's election. All issues shall be decided by a majority vote of the committee. The Chairman shall vote only in the case of a tie. The committee shall be empowered to plan, produce and superintend the District Youth Camp each year. This Committee shall publish, at

least three (3) months before each youth camp, a standard of conduct and dress for each camper. A supply of rules and regulations shall be furnished to each church, for distribution, at least sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of camp.

(b) All counselors for youth camp shall be chosen from those whose convictions uphold the published rules of the "standard of conduct and dress." If in any case a counselor shall hold any reservations different from the published rules, he shall in no wise express these views to any camper during youth camp.

Special Note: The following sections from the Constitution and Bylaws pertaining to the finance of the District Youth Ministries Department are as follows:

Article 7, Section 1, Paragraph (j)

(j) All Social Security taxes shall be paid out of the District Tithe Fund for the District Bishop and the District Youth Director.

Article 7, Section 1, Paragraph (k)

(k) The district shall contribute four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00) per month toward hospitalization insurance coverage for the District Bishop and the District Youth Director.

Article 7, Section 1, Paragraph (m)

(m) The District Board shall set a budget annually for the District Bishop, District Presbyter, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Youth Director and District Women's Ministry Director to attend general board meetings, central committee meetings, Summerfest and General Convention.

Article 7, Section 2, Paragraph (b)

(b) Whereas the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income a ministry-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses in maintaining and providing a home, and/or the ministry can provide the minister a home; and Whereas the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God compensates each minister in the exercise of his ministry who serves the district in the capacity of a district official; Therefore each official, prior to the beginning of the calendar year, shall be allowed to set a designated portion of his monthly income as an allowance for housing and that designated portion per month shall apply until otherwise provided.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (a)

(a) The East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God may furnish an automobile to either the District Bishop or the District Youth Director, at the discretion of the said official.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (b)

(b) The East Texas District may grant said official full and exclusive use of the automobile; however, it is understood and agreed that sole ownership of the automobile shall vest in the denomination, which shall maintain full jurisdiction over said automobile and its use.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (c)

(c) Payments on the car, insurance coverage and mileage will be withheld from the mileage account of the individual each month.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (d)

(d) Credit cards for gasoline, in the name of the organization, may be given to any authorized personnel, and all mileage, along with invoices, on official business, will be reported to the District Secretary-Treasurer of East Texas District.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (e)

(e) Any repairs and other costs, such as tires, batteries, etc., shall be borne by the individual using the automobile.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (f)

(f) At the expiration of his term in office he shall accept the title of the car along with all financial obligations.

Article 7, Section 3, Paragraph (g)

(g) In all insurance matters, a rider shall be attached to the insurance policies fully indemnifying the organization against loss, in order to prevent suits against the organization.

APPENDIX

Biblical Stance on Tattooing

This report will address a subject that is dominating our culture and is becoming an accepted practice in the church world today, the subject of tattoos. The objective of this paper is to be informational as to what the Bible says regarding tattoos.

Tattooing has been around for thousands of years. It has a rich history in Eurasia, Japan, and Egypt. Various other cultures have had their own traditions, ranging from rubbing cuts and other wounds with ashes, to hand-pricking the skin to insert dyes. Tattoos have served as rites of passage, marks of status and rank, decorations for bravery, sexual lures, marks of fertility, pledges of love, punishment, protection, also as the marks of outcasts, slaves and convicts. It has only been within the last decade that tattooing has basically dominated the cultured world. According to US News and World report, tattooing ranks as the sixth fastest growing retail business. It is estimated that one new tattoo studio opens daily. As we look at the Christian community, the practice of tattooing that was once frowned upon and considered unacceptable, is becoming more prevalent. Many Christian artists now sport tattoos, influencing some Christian students to feel the need to be "marked for Jesus"; giving rise as to the validity of the traditional Christian stance on tattooing.

Old Testament View

The scripture in the Bible that directly references tattoos is found in **Leviticus 19:28**, *"Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you. I am the LORD."* The New Living Translation is even clearer: *"Do not cut your bodies for the dead, and do not mark your skin with tattoos. I am the Lord."* For some Christians this verse is concise, straightforward and relevant for today. For others this pertains only to ancient Israel and Levitical Law. However, Leviticus 19 is an elaboration by God on the Ten Commandments He gave to Moses. It specifically calls for a separation to holiness in personal conduct contrary to the idolatrous world around them. At the beginning of this dissertation, God tells Moses to give these instructions to all of the community of Israel commanding *"You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."*

Matthew Henry's Commentary explains that most of Leviticus 19 is moral commandments that apply not only for Israel, but for the New Testament Christian today. "Some ceremonial precepts are in this chapter, but most of them are moral... Most of these precepts are binding on us, for they are expositions of most of the Ten Commandments,"
(*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*, Leviticus 19:28)

The *Unger's Bible Dictionary* under the definition for "mark" includes the following reference for Leviticus 19:28. "We find two prohibitions of an unnatural disfigurement of the body: You shall not make any cutting in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you. The latter (Heb. *Qa aqa*- incision, imprint, tattoo, mark) refers to tattooing, and has no reference to idolatrous usages, but was intended to inculcate upon the Israelites a proper reverence for God's creation."
(Merrill F. Unger, *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 1974 ed., p 696)

Notice that Unger teaches that tattoos were forbidden without any reference to pagan, heathen, or idolatrous usages. In other words the tattoo itself, regardless the reason, was forbidden.

Wycliffe's Bible Encyclopedia under the definition of tattooing distinctly says: "while cutting in the flesh have reference here to mourning customs [for the dead], the tattooing does not appear to pertain to such practice.

(*Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia*, 1975 ed., p. 1664)

Jameison-Faussett-Brown an Explanatory on the Whole Bible, writes under Leviticus 19:28—"nor print any marks upon you by tattooing, imprinting figures of flowers, leaves, stars, and other fanciful devices on various parts of their person. The impression was made sometimes by means of a hot iron, sometimes by ink or paint, as is done by the Arab females of the present day and the different castes of the Hindus. It is probable that a strong propensity to adopt such marks in honor of some idol gave occasion to the prohibition in this verse; and they were wisely forbidden, for they were signs of apostasy; and, when once made, they were insuperable obstacles to a return."

(*Jameison-Faussett-Brown Commentary an Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, Leviticus 19:28)

Charles R. Erdman in his commentary on Leviticus 19:28 writes:

"The custom of tattooing was forbidden, while among all the nations of antiquity it was common." (Charles R. Erdman, *The Book of Leviticus*, 1951 ed., p.93)

Naves famous Topical Bible, under the topic "Tattooing", simply and bluntly writes: "TATTOOING, forbidden, Leviticus 19: 28" (*Nave's Topical Bible*, p. 1312)

Historically the practice of tattooing has been condemned by even the most liberal of bible believing Christians with the understanding that it was forbidden by the Word of God. It is clear under the Law, God strictly forbid His people from tattooing for any reason.

New Testament View

The question then must be asked, "Does this Old Testament passage line up with any fundamental principal found in the New Testament?" The answer, yes. A basic concept found throughout the New Testament states that our bodies are not our own. (I Corinthians 6:12-20)

- "The body is meant for the Lord" (I Corinthians 6:13)
- "Your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost" (I Corinthians 6:19)
- "You are not your own; you were bought with a price." (I Corinthians 6:20)
- "Honor God with your body," (I Corinthians 6:20)

Similarly, **II Corinthians 6** closes with this call to separation, "*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*" The key principle in Corinthians declares that our bodies belong to God, not ourselves, and that we are to honor and reflect God's glory with our bodies.

A parallel passage to Leviticus 19 is found in I Peter 1 beginning at verse 13. Peter makes a plea to Holy living similar to that given by God to Moses. He commands the church to exercise self control, to be obedient to God as children, and to not slip back into living in the old ways of the world to satisfy their own desires. In verses 15 and 16, he sums up his appeal by tying it to God's command in Leviticus 19 to live separated and holy lives. He says, "*But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*"

By the time of the writing of the New Testament, the practice of tattooing was only used in the Greco-Roman world as a punishment to mark criminals or to identify slaves. This would explain why there are no specific references forbidding such practices in the church. Clearly, God's call to holy and separated living by His people is timeless and universal to all God's covenants. It is reasonable to conclude that the God who declares, *"I am the Lord, I change not"* will not waiver on His command that His people reject any thing that has its origins in idolatry, sensuality, or veneration of the dead.

Practical View

While looking at the New Testament, some Christian tattooists conclude that Christ has a tattoo. Their claim comes from the passage in **Revelation 19:16** when Christ returns with the armies of heaven at the end of the Tribulation.

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

In John Gill's *Exposition of the Entire Bible* he notes "and its being said to be written on his thigh may mean either that it was upon that part of his garment which covered his thigh; or else that it was also on his sword, which he sometimes girt upon his thigh."

(John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible, Plin. Nat. Hist. l. 35. c. 9.)

This interpretation would mean Jesus disobeyed Leviticus 19:28, breaking the Levitical Law. Therefore, He would not be the spotless Lamb of God and would not be an adequate sacrifice for the sins of mankind. **1 Peter 1:18-19**, *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*

Still others argue that the forbidding of tattoos was only under Old Testament Law. Yet in the same passage of scripture, the Law forbids prostituting your daughter. This is the only place in the Bible that God directly forbids this practice. Child sacrifice and bestiality were prohibited in the Old Testament, but not addressed in the New Testament. Regardless of the location in scripture, it is understood that these things are not to be practiced.

Another practical view to be considered is the medical risks involved in tattooing. There are many reported cases concerning health risks from major diseases such as: Aids, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Tetanus, Syphilis,

and Tuberculosis. Research has discovered that the commercial tattoo may be the number one distributor of Hepatitis C. Even the Red Cross prohibits donors from donating blood for a year after getting a tattoo, because of the concerns with spread of Hepatitis.

Just as the tattooing business is growing, the business of removing tattoos is on the rise. It has been stated that even though getting a tattoo is painful, the pain of having one removed doubles and the cost triples.

Ministry View

The difference between a leader and a follower is perspective. Perspective by definition is a way of regarding situations or topics or a mental view or the state of one's ideas. As ministers of the gospel we are held to a higher standard and we should see ministry from a different perspective. We live not only for ourselves but for others. The Apostle Paul said, "I [have] made myself servant unto all that I might gain the more." Therefore, ministers must abstain from questionable worldly trends. Although grace affords us a freedom in Christ; we have been called to an exemplary life - a life that others may follow. **I Corinthians 10:23-24**, *"You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is good for you. You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is beneficial. Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others."* NLT

Humbly submitted,

East Texas District Board

Compiled by: Special Committee on Tattooing

Rev. Jim Moore, South Dallas Sectional Presbyter

Dr. Charles Kyle, South Houston Sectional Presbyter

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Edited by:

Bishop Roy Carrico

Paula Carrico

2018 District Convention Minutes

July 31, 2018

Women's Ministries Service

Sis. Paula Carrico opened with prayer. Rev. Mark Rector played the organ and led the congregation in "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise."

Sis Paula Carrico then talked about the Women's Department's theme for the year is, "In Every Season." This theme is based upon Ecclesiastes 3:1. Sis. Carrico exhorted on that scripture.

Women's EmpowHer Weekend will be September 28th – 29th. Sis. Josie Carignan will be speaking to the ladies on Friday night. Saturday morning speakers ranging from teen to elderly will address the ladies, covering all the seasons of life and how God empowers us in each phase.

This year the October "Light Another Candle" offering will be used to purchase new furniture for Messenger College dorms with a portion set aside as an emergency fund for Messenger College students.

Sis Carrico thanked all those that participated in fund raisers and supported all the endeavors of the Women's Ministries Department.

The following Women's Ministries awards were presented:

Alabaster Offering: New Caney Family Worship Center

Director's Offering: Bethel Community Church – Houston

Overall Giving: Bethel Community Church – Houston

The W.M. service was dismissed.

Youth Camp Report and Youth Awards

DYD Josh Martinez opened the youth service, greeting the convention. He introduced Lynnea Martinez who shared victories from the District Youth Department's Missions Trip to Honduras. Coming up this March, during Spring Break, they will take a group of youth to Kenya, Africa.

DYD Josh Martinez gave the following Youth Camp report and testimony:

221 Teen Campers

- More than 110 salvations & rededications
- Over 40 filled with the Holy Spirit
- 27 surrendering to the call to ministry

133 Intermediate Campers

113 Junior Campers

During Teen Camp 37 students passed up "D-Day" activities to travel to Ennis to work at a food pantry for 2 ½ hours. They also painted a hallway and nursery at the facility.

At Camp the ETMI program was presented and several students showed an interest by taking applications.

DYD Josh Martinez presented District awards:

Director’s Offering:

1st Place: Bethel Community Church - Houston

Indian Missions:

1st Place: Gospel Lighthouse-Powderly

Bro. Josh Martinez then spoke of hopes for future campground upgrades:

- Installing a “Splash Pad” for entertainment
- New, larger cafeteria
- Converting old cafeteria into new boy’s dorms

The Camp fundraiser dinner raised more than \$700 on July 30th.

Rev. Josh Martinez turned the service over to Bishop Carrico. Bishop Carrico talked about the growth of the camp and asked Josh Martinez to report on how far reaching our camp’s influence has become. Rev. Josh Martinez stated that there were not only PCG students attending, but Assembly of God, Baptist, Methodist, 1 Catholic, 1 Gateway - Dallas Student and 1 from Lakewood Church in Houston.

**East Texas District Youth Convention
2018**

Youth Ministries Convention was called to order on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 11:25 AM, by Bishop Carrico, Chairman.

Chair called for the report of the Registration Committee, presented by Sis. Mary Boyett.

Sis. Boyett gave the following report:

Ordained:	25
Licensed:	3
Exhorters:	0
Minister’s Spouse:	15
Church Delegates:	12
Women’s Delegates:	1
Youth Delegates:	1
PK’s:	4
Guests:	1
Total:	62 present
	56 pertinent to this convention

Motion to close Registration **MSC**

Bishop called for the reading of the rules of order.
Rules of Order were read by Rev. Joshua Martinez **MSC**

Chair called for the Personal Report of District Youth Director.
Rev. Josh Martinez read his personal report – received with great appreciation accompanied with a handclap.

Chair called for the report of the Audit Committee.

Report of the Audit Committee presented by Rev. W.F. Starnes:

“On Thursday, July 26, 2018, the Audit Committee met in Corsicana, TX and reviewed the books and records of the Department of Youth Ministries of the East Texas District Pentecostal Church of God. The posting, records system, receipts and disbursements were reviewed. The books were found to be in order.”

MSC

Chair called for the Financial Report of the ETD Youth Ministries.

District Director, Josh Martinez read the report.

The floor was open for discussion of the finances.

Rick Martinez asked for clarity on the DYD’s salary. DYD Josh Martinez explained the District Board agreed to a monthly salary of \$3,200.00 to be taken from the General Youth Fund.

Joshua Martinez explained the supplemental salary and how it is determined, as well as, where it comes from to help with the Youth Director’s salary.

Bro. R.C. Helms questioned the policy.

MOTION: To accept Financial Report.

MSC

Chair called for the report of our Resolutions Committee.

Rev. Ed Jordan reported that there were no resolutions for this convention.

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the business of the ETD Youth Ministries Convention at 11:57 AM.

MSC

Rev. Chris Kelley asked if a motion would be in order. Bishop Carrico recognized Chris Kelley. Bro. Kelley made a motion to have the East Texas District Convention convene immediately following the Youth Ministries Convention on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 for the purpose of reading the personal reports of the District Officials.

MSC

2018 East Texas District Convention

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 11:58 AM Convention Body was called to order.

Officers Personal Reports were read, no District business was conducted.

Bishop Carrico turned the Chair to District Presbyterian, Rev. Chris Kelley, to call for the personal report of the District Bishop.

Bishop Carrico gave his personal report – Great appreciation was shown from the constituents.

Bro. Kelley turned the chair back to Bishop Carrico.

Bishop Carrico called for the personal report of the District Presbyter.

Bro. Chris Kelley gave his personal report – Great appreciation was shown from the constituents.

Bishop Carrico called for the personal report of the District Secretary-Treasurer.

Bro. A. Anthony Cheek gave his personal report – Great appreciation was shown from the constituents.

Bishop Carrico called for the personal report of the Christian Education/ETMI Director.

Bro. Tom. Rasey gave his personal report – Great appreciation was shown from the constituents.

Bishop Carrico called for the personal report of the District Women’s Ministries Director.

Sis. Paula Carrico gave her personal report – Great appreciation was shown from the constituents.

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:38 PM until August 1, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

MSC

2018 Memorial Service Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Rev. Andy Hunt welcomed congregation at 10:00 AM.

Rev. Mark Rector opened with a song

Special prayer: Rev. Tommy Cole

Poem: Rev. Rick Martinez

Special Song Selection by Rev. Mark Rector

“The Ministry” Rev. Jeff Lee

Eulogy and Message: Rev. Andy Hunt

Title: “Honoring the Finishers”

Scripture: II Timothy 4: 6-9

Those Honored:

Ministers: Rev Melvin W. Lee

Rev. Charles Daniel Greenfield

Rev. Paul Judd

Minister’s Spouse: Mary Jo Thompson

Hazel Marie Nance

Presentation to Family: Bishop Roy Carrico

Closing prayer: Rev. Andy Hunt

2018 Convention Continued

On Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 11:15 AM, the convention body was called to order.

District Bishop, Roy Carrico called for the Convention to be seated in the two center sections and called for a Report of the Registration Committee.

Sis. Mary Boyett gave the following report:

- Ordained: 30
- Licensed: 7
- Exhorters: 1
- Ministers Spouse: 19
- Church Delegates: 12
- WM Delegates: 1
- Youth Delegates: 1
- PK’s: 4
- Guests: 1

Total: 76/70 pertinent to this convention

Motion made to accept the Registration Report. **MSC**

Bishop Carrico called for the Rules of Order to be read.

Bro. Josh Martinez read the Rules of Order.

Motion made to accept the Rules of Order as read for this convention **MSC**

Bishop called for Report of the Audit Committee.

Rev. W.F. Starnes, Chairman of the Audit Committee gave the following report:

“On Thursday, July 26, 2018, the Audit Committee met in Corsicana, TX and reviewed the books and records of the District Office of the East Texas District Pentecostal Church of God. The posting, record system, receipts and disbursements were reviewed. The books were found to be in order.”

Motion to accept the report of the Audit Committee **MSC**

Motion was made to close Convention registration. **MSC**

Bishop called for the District Financial Report

Bro. Cheek read the financial report.

Convention Floor was open for discussion about finances

Bro. R.C. Helms asked for clarity regarding the total Profit/Loss.

Motion was made to receive the District Financial report as read. **MSC**

Bishop Carrico called for a report of the Audit Committee for the District Women’s Ministries Dept. Financials – Rev. W.F. Starnes presented the following report:

“On Thursday, July 26, 2018, the Audit Committee met in Corsicana, TX and reviewed the books and records of the Department of Women’s Ministries of the East Texas District Pentecostal Church of God. The posting, record system, receipts and disbursements were reviewed. The books were found to be in order.”

Motion to accept the report of the Audit Committee **MSC**

Bishop Carrico called for the Financial Report of the Women’s Ministries Department.

Sis. Paula Carrico read her financial report.

Motion was made to receive the WM Financial report as read. **MSC**

Motion was made to allow Women’s Ministries Delegates to sit in the 2018 Convention business **MSC**

2018 Convention Resolutions

Bishop Carrico called for a report of the Resolutions Committee.

Bro. Ed Jordan reported there are two (2) resolutions pertinent to this convention.

Resolution 1: Be it resolved that Article Seven, Section 1, paragraph (e), be reworded to read as follows:

(e) Out of the District Tithe Fund, the District Bishop shall be paid a set salary of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per month plus all personal love offerings. All offerings except offerings taken for him personally on the field shall be paid into the district office. The District Bishop shall devote all his time to this office and shall be given a three (3) week paid vacation each fiscal year. In addition to the present salary of the District Bishop, nineteen hundred dollars (\$1,900.00) per month shall be paid from the tithe fund for travel expense. Each month, two hundred dollars (\$200.00) from the tithe fund shall be deposited into a retirement account for the benefit of the District Bishop. Also at June District Board Meeting, prior to District Convention, the Board shall review the salary of the District Bishop and make recommendation to adjust if necessary.

Effect: Establishes a retirement account for the District Bishop **MS**

An amendment to the motion was offered by the Finance Committee:

“Upon the completion of his tenure as District Bishop, the retirement fund will remain in said Bishop’s name.” **Amendment seconded and carried**

After much discussion the question was called for

Resolution 1 was carried as amended with 3 dissenting votes.

Resolution 2: – Be it resolved that Article 10, Section 3, paragraph (a), be amended to read as follows:

(a) All ordained, licensed, and exhorter ministers serving within the district whose tithe and fees are current, unless they have already accepted a position in another district;

Effect: Adds tithe as a requirement for voting in the Convention

(Note: This will also change the Recommended Rules of Order for District Convention) **MSC**

District Board Proposal

Whereas the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God has owned a campground in Corsicana, Texas since 1979, and whereas the campground property is limited in size, and whereas it is advantageous for the district to acquire adjoining land for future expansion, and whereas the .52 acre property and house owned by Jim Johnson, which lies in the center of said district property, is currently for sale, the District Board offers this proposal to the convention:

That the District Board be empowered to pursue the purchase of Jim Johnson’s property on behalf of the district with monies coming from the Church Relocation Fund.

MOTION WAS MADE to accept the District Board proposal to purchase the house & property of Jim Johnson using monies from the church relocation fund. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

Bro. Ed Jordan reported that there were no more resolutions.

Election of District Presbyter

Bishop called for the qualifications of the District Presbyter to be read by the District Secretary. Bro. Cheek read the qualifications.

Bishop Carrico called for Tellers to take a count of the seated convention. Total count voting: 68.

Nominating Ballot #1

- Chris Kelley 63
- Tommy Cole 1
- Jim Moore 1

Total Ballots Cast – 65 Votes needed for election – 44

Bishop Carrico declared an election and called Rev. Chris Kelley and his wife to the platform to be welcomed by the District Convention as the newly elected District Presbyterian.

Election of District Secretary/Treasurer

Bishop Carrico called for the qualifications of the District Secretary/Treasurer to be read by the District Presbyterian. Bro Kelley read the qualifications.

The three names nominated from the District Board as mandated by the District Bylaws are:

- Anthony Cheek
- Jim Moore
- Gary Johnson

Bishop explained that other nominations were still allowed from the floor.

Nominating Ballot #1

Anthony Cheek	36
Richard "Rick" Martinez	14
Jim Moore.....	8
Gary Johnson	7

Total Ballots Cast – 65 Votes needed for election – 44

Nominating Ballot #2

Richard "Rick" Martinez	29
Anthony Cheek	27
Jim Moore.....	7
Gary Johnson	3

Total Ballots Cast – 66 Votes needed for election – 44

Rev. Gary Johnson withdrew his name from consideration

Nominating Ballot #3

Richard "Rick" Martinez	40
Anthony Cheek	24
Jim Moore.....	2

Total Ballots Cast – 66 Votes needed for election – 44

Electoral Ballot #1 According to the Rules of Order only the two highest names are to be considered: Richard "Rick" Martinez and Anthony Cheek

Bro. Cheek withdrew his name from consideration

Bishop explained that with only one name, Richard "Rick" Martinez, this will be a Yes/No ballot.

Yes	56
No	5

Total Ballots Cast – 61 Votes needed for election – 41

Bishop Carrico declared an election and called Rev. Richard “Rick” Martinez and family to platform to be welcomed by the District Convention as the newly elected District Secretary/Treasurer.

Bishop Carrico called for the Report of the Credential Committee. Former District Secretary, Bro. Anthony Cheek read the Report of the Credential Committee.

Report of Credential Committee 2017-2018

New Ministers:

Ordained 2
Licensed..... 6
Exhorter 1

Reinstatements:

Ordained 1
Licensed..... 1
Exhorter 0
Grand Total..... 11

Approved for Credentials 2017-2018

Promotions:

Promotions to Ordination..... 3
Promotions to Licensed 3

Transferred in from other Districts

Ordained 2
Licensed..... 0
Exhorter 0

Transferred – Out

Ordained 2
Licensed..... 1
Exhorter 0

Withdrew

Ordained 1
Licensed..... 1
Exhorter 0

Drops

Ordained 1
Licensed..... 0
Exhorter 0

Deceased

Ministers 3
Ministers Spouse..... 2

Bishop Carrico called for the introduction of the newly elected Sectional and Assistant Presbyters for 2018-2020

Motion was made to adjourn at 1:31 PM.

MSC

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BAY CITY SECTION

SWEENEY — Trinity Pentecostal Church of God
3rd & Oak St., 111 E. 3rd St. — TX 77480
Reverend C. E. Bosarge, Pastor (979) 239-1369

BEAUMONT SECTION

DAYTON — Faith Chapel Pentecostal Church of God
134 Hwy 321 N. — TX 77535
NO PASTOR

HULL — Community Chapel Pentecostal Church of God
HWY 770- Corner of W. Sabine & Burnett — TX 77564
Reverend James Simmons, Pastor (936) 253-2511

NEWTON — Lewis Chapel Pentecostal Church of God
7903 FM 363 — TX 75966
Reverend Thomas Charlebois, Sr, Pastor (405)570-6810

KOUNTZE — Gospel Lighthouse Pentecostal Church of God
450 E. Bear St. — TX 77625

LUMBERTON — Calvary Temple Pentecostal Church of God
518 North LHS Drive — TX 77657
Reverend James Boyett, Pastor (409) 755-4977

BRYAN SECTION

BRYAN — At the Cross Outreach, PCG
1111 East 28th Street — TX 77807
Reverend Victor Becerra, Pastor (979) 472-8012

BRYAN — Living Word Worship Center, PCG
3205 Lakeview — TX 77801
Reverend Kenneth Jacob Biswell, Pastor (559) 270-7403

CORSICANA SECTION

CORSICANA — Calvary Worship Center, PCG
917 North 13th Street — TX 75110
Reverend Michael Bedard, Pastor (903) 875-1085

ENNIS — Abundant Life Pentecostal Church of God
5400 I 45 South — TX 75119

MEXIA — Mexia Family Church, PCG
221 S. Martin Luther King Jr.
HWY 14 South — TX 76667
Reverend Thomas Rasey, Pastor (254) 472-5140

WAXAHACHIE — Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica Pentecostes
Jesus Es Señor
802 East Marvin — TX 75165
Reverend Dr. Remedios Santiago, Pastor (214) 395-7477

LONGVIEW SECTION

JACKSONVILLE — Jacksonville Fellowship Church, PCG
213 Canada Street — TX 75766
Rev. Russell Snell, Pastor (262) 321-9440

LONGVIEW — Longview Pentecostal Church of God
314 South 9th — TX 75602

MARSHALL — Templo Bethel Pentecostal Church of God
3108 N. FM 1997 — TX 75670
Reverend Juana Flores, Pastor (903) 930-8437

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

LONGVIEW — Iglecia Cristiana Evangelica Puerta del Cielo
306 E. Mobberly — TX 75602
Reverend Beatriz Barrios, Pastor (903)917-2200

LUFKIN SECTION

CHESTER — Pentecostal Church of God
Hwy 287 West —TX

LUFKIN — Lufkin Family Worship Center, PCG
1504 Fuller Springs Drive — TX 75901
Reverend James Kitchen (936) 637-2318

ZAVALLA — Abundant Life Church, Pentecostal Church of God
434 E. Main St. - P.O. Box 314 — TX 75980
Reverend Winfred Johnson, Pastor (936) 229-1939

NORTH DALLAS SECTION

CARROLLTON — Miracle Tabernacle Pentecostal Church of God
1107 Jackson St. — TX 75006
Reverend W.F. Starnes, Pastor (972) 245-7751

CARROLLTON — Iglesia Evangelica El Shaddai
— TX 75006
Reverend Olivia Fernandez, Pastor (214) 476-6117

SANGER — Trinity Chapel Pentecostal Church of God
1199 Cowling Road — TX 76266
Reverend John Bullock, Pastor (940) 390-8533

SHADY SHORES — New Life Pentecostal Church of God
300 Meadowlark Lane — TX 76205

LEWISVILLE — Iglesia Cristiana Mont Sinai
705 S. Mill Street, Suite# 106 — TX 75057
Reverend Jesus Gonzalez, Pastor (972) 740-3646

LEWISVILLE — Lighthouse Pentecostal Church of God
514 East Main Street — TX 75067
Reverend Norma Warren, Pastor (469) 964-4418

NORTHEAST SECTION

PARIS — River of Abundant Life Pentecostal Church of God
311 East Houston Street—TX 75460
No Pastor

POWDERLY — Gospel Lighthouse Pentecostal Church of God
7620 Hwy 271 N. — TX 75473
Reverend Christopher Kelly, Pastor (903) 732-3998

NORTHWEST SECTION

BONHAM— Solid Rock First Pentecostal Church of God
1850 Hwy 121 South, P.O. Box 373 — TX 75418
Reverend Larry Horn, Pastor (580) 239-9991

DENISON — Amazing Grace Pentecostal Church of God
2300 S. College Blvd. — TX 75020
Reverend Michael Daniels, Pastor (903) 465-8081

GREENVILLE — New Hope Pentecostal Church of God
4203 Third Street — TX 75401
Reverend Johnny Lovett, Pastor (903) 268-7869

GREENVILLE — First Pentecostal Church of God
2615 Walnut St. — TX 75401
Reverend Joyce Pattison, Pastor (903) 527-4102

MCKINNEY— Tabernacle of Praise Pentecostal Church of God
403 Bumpas Street - P.O. Box 2831 — TX 75070
Reverend James D. Judd, Pastor (580) 236-7257

NORTH HOUSTON SECTION

CLEVELAND— First Pentecostal Church of God
1109 Plum Grove, P.O. Box 757 — TX 77327
Reverend Alf Melton, Pastor (281) 360-8504

HOUSTON— Bethel Community Church, PCG
2414 Lauder Rd. — TX 77039
Reverend Rick Martinez, Pastor (281) 449-1473

HOUSTON— Calvary Pentecostal Church of God
912 Tidwell Rd —TX 77093
Reverend James Taylor, Pastor (281) 814-7915

- HOUSTON—** Trinity Pentecostal Church of God
603 Frail Lane — TX 77076
Reverend Hugo Torres, Pastor (281) 935-1786
- HUFFMAN—** First Pentecostal Church of God
1330 Old Atascocita Extension — TX 77336
Reverend Victor Persinger, Pastor (713) 885-7690
- HUFFMAN—** Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church of God
29 Blue Lake Dr. — TX 77336
Reverend Jimmy Rogers, Pastor (281) 361-2714
- HUMBLE—** Souls Harbor Pentecostal Church of God
1321 Main — TX 77338
Reverend Tommy Cole, Pastor (281) 446-9595
- NEW CANEY—** New Caney Family Worship Center, PCG
23214 FM 1485 East — TX 77357
Reverend David Hunt Jr., Pastor (281) 689-7065
- SHEPHERD—** Shepherd Family Worship Center, PCG
Hwy 150 West, P.O. Box 714 — TX 77371
Reverend T. Eddie Steward, Pastor (936) 628-3942

PALESTINE SECTION

- PALESTINE —** Iglesia Evangelica Pentecostes el Sinai
902 S. Fulton Street, — TX 75801
Reverend Telesforo Castro, Pastor (903)731-4415

SOUTH DALLAS SECTION

- ARLINGTON—** Harvest Time Pentecostal Church of God
1919 South Cooper — TX 76010
Reverend Charlie Jordon, Pastor (817) 460-6005
- BALCH SPRINGS —** Fellowship Pentecostal Church of God
11025 Limestone — TX 75180
Reverend Larry Dickens, Pastor (972) 289-0530

CLEBURNE — Cornerstone Pentecostal Church of God
1401 N. Anglin Street — TX 76031
Reverend Weldon Coble, Pastor (817) 901-7621

EULESS— Pentecostal Church of God
207 Sunset Drive — TX 76039
No Pastor

GRAND PRAIRIE—Calvary Full Gospel Pentecostal Church of God
3113 S. Carrier Parkway, P.O. Box 542004 — TX 75054
Reverend A. Anthony Cheek, Co-Pastor (972) 977-4704
Reverend Vicki Cheek, Co-Pastor

GRAND PRAIRIE— Jesucristo es el Salvador PCG
2217 Aggie Drive — TX 75051
Reverend Marco Moctezuma, Pastor (214) 475-1972

IRVING— Heritage Pentecostal Church of God
1501 Briery Rd. — TX 75060
No Pastor

FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES

ALVARADO— Full Gospel Tabernacle
1010 South Park Way, P.O. Box 903 — TX 76009
Reverend Todd Baze, Pastor (817) 790-8380

BALCH SPRINGS— True Life Fellowship
13420 Alexander Road – TX 75181
Reverend Joel Reyes, Pastor (214) 664-1269

EULESS— New Life Family Church
601 E. Airport Freeway, P.O. Box 869 — TX 76039
Reverend Brad Carignan, Pastor (817) 283-9777

SOUTH HOUSTON SECTION

BAYTOWN— Revival Center Pentecostal Church of God
5232 Interstate-10 E. — TX 77520
Reverend Edward Jordan, Pastor (281) 421-1403

BAYTOWN— Victory Temple Pentecostal Church of God
5 Gresham St. — TX 77520
Reverend Dr. Charles Kyle, Pastor (281) 422-3114

CHANNELVIEW—Agape Worship Center, PCG
15338 S. Brentwood — TX 77530
Reverend Virgil Watson, Pastor (281) 452-4390

HOUSTON— Community Chapel Pentecostal Church of God
12827 Flagstaff — TX 77049
No Pastor

TEXAS CITY— Trinity Full Gospel Pentecostal Church of God
3711 N. Logan Street — TX 77590
No Pastor

TYLER SECTION

WINNSBORO— Church In the Wildwood PCG
705 East Carnegie — TX 75494
No Pastor

MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY ORDAINED

BATSON, FRANKIE
P.O. BOX 1262 —QUINLAN, TX 75474.....(903)356-4691

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1906 POTTER LANE — MESQUITE, TX 75149.....(214)704-1527

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189 ARTHUR BEAUCHAMP RD. — HUNTINGTON, TX 75949..... (936)404-2303

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 1630 W. MURRAY — DENISON, TX 75020(580)239-9991

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 4218 TERRACE PINES DR. — KINGWOOD, TX 77345(281)740-7540

HUNT, LENORA
 4218 TERRACE PINES DR. — KINGWOOD, TX 77345(281)413-5456

HUNT, ROYCE JR.
 13420 BO WOOD — CONROE, TX 77302.....(936)231-2170

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 7368 NW CR 1300 — BARRY, TX 75102(903)354-6898

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 1010 STUBBLEFIELD DR. — LUFKIN, TX 75904(936)229-1939

JORDAN, EDWARD
 6203 VENICE ST. — BAYTOWN, TX 77523(713)447-3124

JORDON, CHARLIE
 1919 SOUTH COOPER — ARLINGTON, TX 76010 (817)460-6005

JOSEPH, SHIBU
 330 SEDONA FALLS DR. — SUNNYVALE, TX 75182(972)415-9856

KELLEY, CHRISTOPHER
 747 CR 44190 — POWDERLY, TX 75473.....(903)732-5940

KITCHEN, JAMES
1504 FULLER SPRINGS DRIVE – LUFKIN, TX 75901(281)682-5085

KYLE, DR. CHARLES
605 ARON ST. — BAYTOWN, TX 77520(832)421-6743

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P.O. BOX 1396 — CORSICANA, TX 75151(713) 249-6299

MARTINEZ, RICK
24502 RED DEER — HUFFMAN, TX 77336(713) 249-1550

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MILES, TROY
114 N.W. PR0105 — CORSICANA, TX 75110(903)227-2831

MINOR, RONALD R.
5751 GLENEAGLES CIRCLE — FORT WORTH, TX 76137.....(817)925-9988

MOORE, JIM
302 OAKVIEW DR. — GRAND PRAIRIE, TX 75050(940)782-8714

MULLINS, PATRICIA
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RECOMMENDED RULES OF ORDER FOR DISTRICT CONVENTION

In keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, all business of the convention shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, 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:

1. DELEGATION

The voting constituency shall consist of the following, when duly registered:

- (a) All officers of the District
- (b) Ordained ministers
- (c) Licensed ministers
- (d) Exhorter ministers
(All ministers' credentials, tithe, and fees must be current)
- (e) The saved spouses of all the above listed ministers
- (f) Unmarried spouses of deceased ministers who continue to faithfully attend and support a local Pentecostal Church of God church, and whose Christian experience remains without question.
- (g) Each chartered church may elect or duly appoint from its membership one (1) church delegate for each one hundred (100) active church members or fraction thereof (not Sunday School attendance), whose names appear on the church membership roster. The Youth Ministries delegate and the Women's Ministry delegate shall be seated by the chairman on all matters that pertain to their respective departments. Delegates must be members of the local church and at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (h) Absentee ballots shall be accepted by the convention only for elections from duly registered ministers and spouses for reasons listed in Article 10 of the District Bylaws.

2. SEATING THE CONSTITUENCY

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

3. PARLIAMENTARIANS AND TIME KEEPER

- (a) The chair shall appoint a committee of three (3) members who shall serve as parliamentarians. It shall be the duty of the parliamentarian to advise the chair, not make ruling on points of order. Only the chair has this authority.
- (b) A timekeeper shall be appointed by the chair. His responsibility shall be to accurately call time when the limits of discussion have been reached.

4. DISCUSSION

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Persons desiring to speak shall first rise, address the chair and wait to be recognized, move to the microphone to be heard, then proceed to speak.
- (d) No person shall speak more than three (3) times on any 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 time, 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 desiring the floor.
- (e) Because sufficient time has been allotted to all those desiring to speak, we request that no audible remarks such as “Amen, that’s right, Hallelujah,” etc., be permitted while another is speaking. No person shall request the floor while another is speaking except to raise a privileged question..
- (f) Recognizing the rights of others to their opinions, we request that no personalities shall be indulged in from the floor.
- (g) Each speaker shall, when discussing any subject, state whether he is for or against the issue presented. When as many as three (3) persons 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 for the other side, the chair shall call for the question.
- (h) The author of any resolution shall be extended an opportunity by the chairman to introduce his resolution as to its intent before debate begins. The allotted time shall be three (3) minutes.
- (i) The chair shall determine when the discussion is sufficient and the question is to be entertained.

5. VOTING

- (a) All officers shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast. All officers shall be voted upon by secret ballot.
- (b) A secret ballot may be requested upon any issue by a majority vote of the constituency.
- (c) In the election of officers, not more than ten (10) ballots (including nominating ballots) shall be cast upon any group of nominees. In the event that no election has been reached by the tenth ballot, the nominations shall be reopened and new ballots cast. The first three (3) ballots shall be nominating ballots. After three (3) 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 highest shall not be counted in the total votes cast.

- (d) No office shall be filled by a vote of acclamation.
- (e) After the third nominating ballot, any candidate, upon being recognized by the chair, may be privileged to withdraw his or her name.
- (f) If one nominee of the two highest being considered should withdraw his name after the first electoral ballot, leaving one 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.
- (g) The number of votes necessary for the adoption of a resolution shall be determined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Organization.

SECTIONAL BOUNDARY LINES

1. **NORTHWEST SECTION, COUNTIES:** Fannin, Hunt, Colin, Grayson, Cooke and Denton from District line eastward
2. **NORTHEAST SECTION, COUNTIES:** Lamar, Delta, Hopkins, Titus, Franklin, Red River, Bowie, Cass, Morris and Camp.
3. **DALLAS SECTIONS**
 - EAST DALLAS SECTION:** Beginning I-30 and I-35E; go south on I-35E to 287 bypass at Waxahachie, then south on 287 to Highway 34 in Ennis, then on 34 to Highway 205 in Terrell, then south on 205 to Highway 78, then go west on 78 to Highway 544, continue west on 544 to I-45, then go south on I-45 to I-30, then southwest on I-30 to I-35E, beginning point.
 - NORTH DALLAS SECTION:** Beginning at I-45 and Highway 544, go south on I-45 to 635, then go west on 635 to Highway 114, take Highway 114 to Highway 26, take Highway 26 to Loop 820, then go west on Loop 820 to Highway 377, then north on 377 to I-35E, go north on I-35 to Denton County's north line, then go west on Denton County's north line to Grayson County's south line, then east on Grayson County's south line to I-45, then go south on I-45 to Highway 544, beginning point.
 - SOUTH DALLAS SECTION:** Beginning at 635 and I-45, go west on 635 to Highway 114, take Highway 114 to Highway 26, take Highway 26 to Loop 820, then go south on Loop 820 to Highway 81, then south on Highway 81 to District line, go east on Hill County's north line, then north on Ellis County's west line to Ellis County's north line, then east on Ellis County's north line to I-35E, go north on I-35 to I-30, then east on I-30 to I-45, go north on I-45 to 635, beginning point
4. **LONGVIEW SECTION, COUNTIES:** Gregg, Marion, Harrison, Rusk and Panola.
5. **TYLER SECTION, COUNTIES:** Rains, Wood, Upshur, Van Zandt and Smith.
6. **CORSICANA SECTION, COUNTIES:** Navarro, Ellis and Hill from the District line eastward.
7. **PALESTINE SECTION, COUNTIES:** Freestone, Leon, Robertson, Limestone, Henderson, Anderson, Cherokee, McLennan, Falls, Milam from District line eastward.
8. **LUFKIN SECTION, COUNTIES:** Nacogdoches, Shelby, San Augustine, Sabine and Angelina.
9. **BRYAN SECTION, COUNTIES:** Madison, Brazos, Grimes, Washington, Burleson and Lee from District line eastward.
10. **CROCKETT SECTION, COUNTIES:** Houston, Trinity, Walker, Polk and San Jacinto.
11. **NORTH HOUSTON SECTION, COUNTIES:** Montgomery, Waller and Harris from Highway 90 northward.
12. **JASPER SECTION, COUNTIES:** Tyler, Jasper and Newton.
13. **BEAUMONT SECTION, COUNTIES:** Liberty, Hardin, Jefferson, Chambers and Orange.
14. **SOUTH HOUSTON SECTION, COUNTIES:** Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris from Highway 90 southward.
15. **BAY CITY SECTION, COUNTIES:** Brazoria, Matagorda, Jackson, Wharton, Colorado, Austin, Fayette and Lavaca from District line eastward.

EAST TEXAS DISTRICT MAP



