

**Stone Edge Church of the
Assemblies of God, Inc.**

**CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS**

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall constitute the Body or the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself being the Chief Corner Stone; and

WHEREAS, the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ are admonished to assemble themselves together for worship, instruction in the Word of God, fellowship, counsel and the work of ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for the New Testament; and

WHEREAS, God has called the Church to be His witness of love and light in these last days, and to assume our responsibility and privilege of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves a body of Christian believers according to the Scriptural plan for the local church and under the laws of the State of Georgia, that we may worship God as a united body, exercising all other rights and privileges granted to religious bodies;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves to be affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with National Headquarters at Springfield, Missouri, and an active member of the Georgia District Council.

Constitution

Article I.

Name

The name of this church shall be Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. of the city of Macon, state of Georgia.

Article II.

Prerogatives

SECTION 1. SELF GOVERNMENT.

This Assemblies of God church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace . . . till we come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:3, 13).

SECTION 2. PROPERTY RIGHTS.

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes: all in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws or as the same may be hereafter amended.

Article III.

Affiliation

SECTION 1. RELATIONSHIP.

Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Georgia District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by this affiliation.

As a member of the General Council, Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. agrees to:

- (1) Cooperate by every possible means in the extension of God’s work and kingdom throughout the world.
- (2) Support the missionary program agreed upon by the District and General Councils.
- (3) Participate in District and General sessions via duly chosen delegates.

(4) Invite the Counsel of the District officials in the event of church difficulty and when changing pastors.

(5) Share in the support of the District and General Council. (See Council By-Laws, Article XI, Section 1, Paragraph B: and all of Section 4, Article XI).

(6) Recognize that the District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have the right and authority to:

- a. Approve scriptural doctrine and conduct:
- b. Disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, as stated in Article III, Paragraph F, of the General Council Constitution:
- c. Withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary.

Article IV. Tenets of Faith

Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity. Therefore, Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. adopts the statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

1. THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED.

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

(2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13;
2 Peter 1:21).

2. THE ONE TRUE GOD.

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent. "I AM", the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

3. THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:31,35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1Peter 2:22)
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross.(1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phillipians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. THE FALL OF MAN.

Man was created good and upright, for God said, “let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” However man, by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. THE SALVATION OF MAN.

Man’s only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) Evidences of Salvation:

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH.

(a) Baptism in water:

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

(b) Holy Communion:

The Lord’s Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); A memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “Till He Comes!”

7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and

service, the bestowing of the gifts and their uses in work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; I Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to his work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for his Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. SANCTIFICATION.

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

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of the union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Phillipians 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION.

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23). Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of his son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the church, is:

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

Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

This experience:

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

11. THE MINISTRY.

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

- (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20)
- (2) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24).
- (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of his son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. DIVINE HEALING.

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

13. THE BLESSED HOPE.

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ, and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52).

14. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST.

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

15. THE FINAL JUDGMENT.

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the book of life, together with the Devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH.

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness,”(2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).

ARTICLE V. Ordinances

SECTION 1.

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

SECTION 2.

The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Article VI. Membership

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY.

Membership in Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth.

SECTION 2. VOTING MEMBERSHIP.

All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. was first organized. Together with those names that shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., provided they are 16 years of age or older, that they regularly attend and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

SECTION 3. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP.

Membership shall be available for young people under 16 years of age who give evidence of new birth, having received Christ as their personal Savior, and who meet the usual qualifications for membership established by Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. They shall have voting privileges at 16 years of age.

SECTION 4. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. for a period of (90) days or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings, or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. through its elected officers.

Article VII. Government

SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

a. The Council of Elders shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of discipline. A majority present at any meeting of the Council of Elders shall constitute a quorum.

b. The officers of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. as set forth above shall act as its Council of Elders for the purposes of transacting the business of the congregation as set forth in its articles of incorporation as recognized and authorized by the state of Georgia, dated 1 October, 1980.

SECTION 2. ELDERS.

a. Elders are chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the Senior Pastor in all matters pertaining to Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall serve as a part of the duly constituted Council of Elders for the administration of church business and finances, under the chairmanship of the Senior Pastor.

b. Honorary Elder: Upon approval of the membership of Stone Edge Church, honorary members may be chosen who have reached the age of 65 and have served 15 years as elder. Honorary members shall have the right of voice at all duly called sessions of the council of elders. The addition of such honorary members shall not disturb the regular number of elders.

SECTION 3. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be a man of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be an active and supporting member of the Church. He is expected to maintain his own spiritual and financial affairs in order.

Article VIII. Meetings.

SECTION 1. WORSHIP SERVICES.

Meeting for public worship shall be held on each Lord's day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Council of Elders.

SECTION 2. ANNUAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

There shall be an Annual Church Council of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. to be held on or before February 28th at which time the election of officers shall take place. Also the Secretary/Treasurer shall present his reports to the membership. The time and place shall be announced by the Senior Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of the council.

SECTION 3. SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCILS.

Special Church Councils of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. may be called when necessary after proper notice has been given by the Senior Pastor or by the Secretary/Treasurer of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Council of Elders. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., the petition to be placed in the hands of the Senior Pastor or the Secretary/Treasurer and announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of the meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the church should request the help of the District Official.

SECTION 4. QUORUM.

No record of any special or regular Church Council of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be made unless one-third or more active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5. COUNCIL OF ELDERS MEETINGS.

The Council of Elders with the Senior Pastor, shall meet at least monthly for the transaction of routine business for Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. The time and place will be announced by the Senior Pastor.

Article IX. Departments and Committees

SECTION 1. SUNDAY SCHOOL.

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

SECTION 2. YOUTH MINISTRIES

There may be a Youth Ministries Department formed under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Council of Elders.

SECTION 3. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES.

There may be Men's and Women's Departments formed and conducted under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Council of Elders.

SECTION 4. OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

As need arises, other departments or committees may be established.

SECTION 5. RELATIONSHIP.

All departments and committees shall subordinate to Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders, and the Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE X. Finances

SECTION 1. MEANS OF SUPPORT.

All funds for the maintenance of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be provided by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders, and shall be administered by the Secretary/Treasurer under their direction. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-8).

SECTION 2. CHURCH ADMINISTRATION.

Administration of the Church business and finances shall be the responsibility of the Council of Elders under the chairmanship of the Senior Pastor.

Article XI.

Property

SECTION 1.

All property of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be deeded to Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and held in its name. No property of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the same having first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting, or special meeting of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Senior Pastor and Secretary/Treasurer of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc.. Such certificate shall be held conclusive evidence thereof.

SECTION 2. DEFECTION FROM STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH

In the event defection shall occur from the tenets of faith of this church as the same are stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or from affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the afore said tenets of faith and retaining membership with the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God shall retain possession of , and title to, all properties of said church with full rights thereto as provided in its Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 3. TERMINATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

In the event this church shall cease to function for the purposes as declared heretofore in its articles of agreement and/or the Articles of its Constitution, then after providing for the payment of its debts, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets shall revert to, and be transferred to, the parent body of the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God. The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived therefrom for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Georgia District and under the direction of the presbytery of said district.

In the event of cessation of this church, its Council of Elders shall within one (1) year thereafter transfer all properties and remaining assets to the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the foregoing provisions. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed herein or if the aforesaid Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer as an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which this church is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to an organization or organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Georgia District Council of the

Assemblies of God, and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which have established tax-exempt status under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article XII. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, and provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting.

BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. THE SENIOR PASTOR.

The Senior Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the Business Meetings of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and of the Council of Elders. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. without his approval.

SECTION 2. THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

- a. There shall be a Senior Pastor and a Council of Elders, one of which shall be elected as the Secretary/Treasurer. Other officers shall be added as the need arises.
- b. Honorary Elders shall be chosen from the membership of Stone Edge Church. They shall be nominated by Senior Pastor and Official Board of Elders. They shall be elected by a majority vote at the Annual Church Council.

SECTION 3. ELDERS

- a. The Council of Elders, consisting of not less than five members, shall function under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. Their terms of office shall be for periods of three years with no elder succeeding himself after serving two terms without the lapse of one year.
- b. The Elders shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6.
- c. Administrative affairs of the church shall be carried on by the Council of Elders except in matters affecting the entire body. In such cases, they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification. Members of the Council of Elders shall be least 23 years old, and shall have been members of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. for at least one year.

SECTION 4. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Council of Elders and of the membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and the corporate seal.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. which may be committed to him. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of

God, Inc., and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He shall present an itemized report at the regular meeting of the Council of Elders and a summarized report to the membership at its regular Business Meeting. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders.

Article II. Elections and Vacancies

SECTION 1. THE SENIOR PASTOR.

The Senior Pastor may be elected to serve for a specific term at his first election, or he may be elected for an indefinite period of time. He shall be nominated by the Council of Elders. Only one name shall be voted upon at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot at the time of the Annual Church Council of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

SECTION 2. THE ELDERS

The Elders shall be chosen from the membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. They shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee selected by the Council of Elders, and elected by a majority vote at the Annual Church Council. Their terms of office shall be for three (3) years from the time of election, and their terms shall be staggered. No Elder may succeed himself after serving two (2) terms without the lapse of one year.

SECTION 3. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be chosen from the Council of Elders of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. He shall be nominated by the Senior Pastor and elected by a majority vote at the first Official Council of Elders meeting following the Annual Church Council. He shall serve as Secretary/Treasurer concurrently with the Office of Elder which would be a maximum of two (3) year terms and a maximum of one (3) year term. After his term has expired, he shall relinquish his duties to the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer, and be it further resolved, that Stone Edge Church shall upon the adoption of this resolution establish its newly amended By-Laws to immediately be in effect to guide and execute any such elections of Secretary/Treasurer from this time forth.

SECTION 4. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor, two members of the Council of Elders and three members of the membership appointed by the Council of Elders. They shall nominate all candidates for all offices elected at the general election of the Annual Church Council of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc.

The membership shall have the opportunity to submit names of qualified persons on the appropriate Elder Request Forms to any member serving on the Nominating Committee for consideration as a candidate. The Elder Request Forms should be submitted no later than three weeks prior to the Annual Church Council. The nominating committee upon conclusion of their duties will announce, through the bulletin no later than two Sundays prior to the Annual Church Council, the official list of nominees to be presented to the membership.

SECTION 5. VACANCIES.

(a) The Senior Pastor

In the event a Senior Pastor has serious charges preferred against him, or his ministry has ceased to be effective and no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, responsibility is vested in the Council of Elders to ask for the resignation of the Senior Pastor at any of its regular Church Councils. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Council of Elders has been sustained by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose. This meeting shall be presided over by a district officer. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply of candidates shall be arranged for by the Council of Elders until a Senior Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed by the By-Laws, Article II, Section I.

In the case of the Senior Pastor's removal from office a report of such action shall be made to the District Council office.

(b) Other Officers.

(1) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of majority of the Council of Elders at any regular or special Church Councils. In the event an office is vacated, the office shall be filled by appointment by the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders until the next Annual Church Council (or special Church Council) at which time the unexpired term shall be filled by the body.

(2) Grounds for such action shall be:

- (a) unscriptural conduct,
- (b) departure from the tenets of faith,
- (c) incompetency in office,
- (d) any good and sufficient cause.

(3) Any incumbent under charges shall have an opportunity for a hearing of his case before the membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. if he so desires.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Only those shall be eligible for membership in Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. who:

- (1) Show evidence of a genuine experience of salvation. (John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 1:12-13; I Peter 1:18-23).
- (2) Show evidence of a consistent Christian life (Galatians 2:20; 5:19-24).
- (3) Disapprove and refrain from participation in worldly amusements such as lewd or carnal movies, videos, television, music or literature; gambling, social dancing, and gossip (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; I John 2:15-17; I Thessalonians 5:22).
- (4) Abstain from the use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages, the misuse and abuse of drugs and anything which brings the believer back into bondage (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:1, 19-24).
- (5) Subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Constitution of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc.
- (6) Indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws, and to contribute regularly to its support with tithes and offerings as the Lord may prosper them.
- (7) Shall successfully complete any required preparatory class, to be versed in the church Constitution and By-Laws, doctrines and standards of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc.

SECTION 2. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

The Council of Elders, or members designated by them, shall serve as the Membership Committee to pass upon all candidates for membership in Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. Those desiring to apply for membership shall complete an application form and submit it to the church office. If after proper investigation by the Membership Committee the applicant is endorsed for membership, he may be publicly received at any service scheduled for such purpose, and his name inscribed on the membership roll.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP DEFINED

a. Active Members

All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership, shall constitute the legal voting or active membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies

of God, Inc., provided they regularly attend and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives, and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony, as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 3, Section 1.

b. Inactive Members

Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their membership to another church, together with those who, for any cause except physical disability or temporary absence from the community, have been absent from the regular services of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. for a period of ninety (90) days or more, shall be classified as inactive members, and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. If an inactive member becomes active again by resumed regular attendance at our church services, and if the member has not departed from the standard of membership of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., the Membership Committee may return that member's name to the active membership list without normal reception into membership again.

c. Removal from Inactive Roll

If after eighteen (18) months on the inactive membership roll, the inactive member continues to absent himself from Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., he may be removed from the membership roll.

SECTION 4. DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

The policy of church discipline and restoration is derived from the teachings of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Any member of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. who persists in serious sinful behavior (1 Corinthians 5:1, 2), or doctrinal error contrary to the Scriptures (I Timothy 6:3-6), who no longer conforms to the qualifications for membership (Amos 3:3), or who willingly causes discord within the Assembly by word or action (Romans 16:17,18) in spite of repeated warnings and admonition shall be subject to church discipline. No such action shall be taken unless and until patient and persistent effort shall have been made (as described below) to win such member back to the standard of faith and conduct of the Assembly.

a. Purpose of Discipline

The purpose of church discipline is to bring about repentance from sin, reconciliation, and restoration to the fellowship. Discipline is prescribed in the Scriptures and is essential for four basic reasons:

- (1) For the glory and honor of God. (Ephesians 1:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:19-22).
- (2) For the sake of the individual who is sinning. (Matthew 18:15; Psalms 32:3-4; Genesis 4:7; Hebrews 3:12-13).
- (3) As a warning to others who are sinning. (I Corinthians 5:6, 7; Revelation 2:5).
- (4) For the purity of the Church. (I Corinthians 5:6, 7; Revelation 2:5).

b. Process of Discipline

A member may be subject to any of the following actions (Matthew 18:15-17):

- (1) Investigation of charges;
- (2) Formal discipline;
- (3) Disfellowship and removal from membership rolls.

1. Investigation of Charges.

A charge may be brought by any person(s) individually or collectively, to any member of the Membership Committee. After such charges have been heard, the Senior Pastor or the Membership Committee shall determine whether an investigation of the charges is warranted. An investigation may be initiated by the Senior Pastor or the Membership Committee. The member being investigated shall be informed of the charges.

The member shall be given the opportunity to respond to the charges. If, in the opinion of the Senior Pastor or the Membership Committee any of the charges are found to be true, the Membership Committee may initiate formal discipline.

2. Formal Discipline.

The Senior Pastor or any pastor designated by him shall inform the member in writing that he is under formal discipline. The Senior Pastor shall make every effort to admonish and correct the member, and give him clear instruction as to how he may be restored to good standing in the assembly. While a member is under formal discipline, his right to vote or participate as a member at any regular or special meeting of the membership shall be suspended.

If the member is uncooperative or has not changed his word or action according to the instruction of the leadership of the church, an announcement of formal discipline, at the discretion of the Senior Pastor, may be made to the entire assembly, or any portion of the Assembly associated with the disciplined member, so that the Assembly will be moved to pray for and speak to the disciplined member to encourage repentance.

At any time in the process of formal discipline the Senior Pastor may recommend to the Membership Committee that the disciplined member be disfellowshipped and removed from the membership rolls.

3. Disfellowship and Removal from the Membership rolls.

Upon the majority vote of the Membership Committee that member's name shall be removed from the membership rolls and he shall be disfellowshipped. (Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 5:1-13).

The Senior Pastor shall inform the member in writing that he has been disfellowshipped and removed from the membership rolls. The member shall have the right to appeal this decision to the Council of Elders within thirty (30) days. The

Council of Elders shall give the member a hearing at which the member may give his reasons for appeal. The Council of Elders shall either:

- (1) affirm the ruling of the Membership Committee; or
- (2) refer the matter to a special meeting of the entire membership whose action by a majority vote shall be considered final.

4. Restoration of Member.

If at any time, a disciplined or disfellowshipped member demonstrates the fruit of repentance in word and action so that he conforms to the standards of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. and the qualifications for membership to the satisfaction of the Senior Pastor and the Membership Committee, he shall be immediately restored to good standing as a member. An announcement of this restoration may be made.

SECTION 5. REVISION OF MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

The Senior Pastor and Council of Elders shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require. (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17, 18; I Corinthians 5:1-5; II Thessalonians 3:6-15).

If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders through the Secretary/Treasurer. If appeal is made to the Council of Elders for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc., by a majority vote, shall be considered final.

Article IV. Sunday School

A Sunday School Department may be formed. It shall function under the general supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Council of Elders.

Article V. Youth Ministries

A Youth Ministries Department may be formed. It shall function under the general supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Council of Elders.

Article VI. Property Rights

SECTION 1.

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. by its elected Council of Elders and their successors.

SECTION 2.

No real or chattel property of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

SECTION 3.

The Senior Pastor and the Secretary/Treasurer of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Article VII. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the annual meeting of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. shall be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary/Treasurer
3. Report of Secretary/Treasurer
4. Report of committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

Article VIII. Parliamentary Order

In conducting of its affairs, the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Article IX. Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special Business Meeting of Stone Edge Church of the Assemblies of God, Inc. by a majority vote of the membership present providing such amendments have been submitted in writing to the membership two weeks prior to the Church Council.

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 28, 1979

REVISED BY AMENDMENT:

JANUARY 17, 1983, JANUARY 31, 1988, MARCH 5, 1989, JANUARY 26, 1992, FEBRUARY 24, 1993, FEBRUARY 20, 1996, FEBRUARY 25, 1997, FEBRUARY 28, 2007, FEBRUARY 24, 2010, FEBRUARY 23, 2011, AUGUST 26, 2012