

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
BETHLEHEM MINISTRY
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
ESBJERG, JYLLANDSGADE - DENMARK



Bethlehem Ministry
of the Assemblies of God

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Denmark – January 27th, 2014)

THE BETHLEHEM MINISTRY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel Freire Costa, Superintendent João Leno Gomes,
President Marcos Germano Ramos, First Vice-President
Fabio Alexandre Silva, Second Vice-President Tiago José de
Oliveira, First Secretary Francis Brito, Second Secretary Alcir
Florentino dos Santos, Third Secretary Claudio Sforcin
Pereira, First Treasurer Mikael Dias Hansen, Second
Treasurer

HEADQUARTERS

Jyllandsgade 50,
Esbjerg, Denmark - 6700
Phone: +45 25 75 54 51
www.adbelem.org
joaleno@adbelem.org

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
BETHLEHEM MINISTRY
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**REVISED AND
APPROVED AT THE
GENERAL MEETING ON
THE DAY 19 FEBRUARY
2023**

ESBJERG, DENMARK

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

| <u>Article</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| I. | Preamble | 5 |
| II. | Denomination | 5 |
| III. | Statement of Faith | 5 |
| IV. | The Ordinances of the Church | 5 |
| V. | Membership | 5 |
| VI. | Ministry – The Body of ministers | 6 |
| VII. | Board of Directors | 6 |
| VIII. | Elections | 7 |
| IX. | Vacancy | 8 |
| X. | Meetings | 8 |
| XI. | Finance | 8 |
| XII. | Properties | 9 |
| XIII. | Members' Rights | 9 |
| XIV. | Discipline | 9 |
| XV. | Congregation and Local Pastors | 10 |
| XVI. | Quorum | 10 |
| XVII. | Amendments | 10 |
| XVIII. | Omitted | 10 |

PREAMBLE

With the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for worship of the Almighty God and for the communion of those who profess the same faith, where there is the preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, conversion of lives, teaching and training of believers for Christian service, we, the signatories of this Statute, constitute ourselves as church, a non-profit, religious, social, educational and cultural entity.

ARTICLE 1 - DENOMINATION

This Church is called BETHLEHEM MINISTRY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD; its field of work comprises the cities where, under the guidance of the Central Ministry in Lighthouse point, FL, USA, maintain or come to start new Churches in any language or culture.

ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

This Church accepts the Bible as the revealed will of God, the sufficient and unlimited rule for faith and practice and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopted by *the Statement of Fundamental Truths*, approved by the CGADB – General Convention of the Assemblies of God in Brazil and The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America.

ARTICLE 3 – THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

Section 1 - The ordinance of baptism in the waters, by immersion, according to *Matthew 28:19*, shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and believe in *the Lord Jesus Christ* for the salvation of their souls and who have been born again clearly evidencing such experience and have participated in teachings on the Fundamental Truths and the bylaws of our Church. Col. 2.12 and II Tes. 3.6.

Section 2 – The ordinance of the Lord's Holy Supper shall be monthly observed, according to the scriptures – Luc. 22.19,20 and I Cor. 11.23-24. The participation of the Holy Supper shall be for members baptized in water according to scripture, by immersion, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Mat. 3.13-17 and Mat. 28.19, and in accordance with this article.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – This assembly reserves, through its board of directors, the right to accept the request for a member, from those who voluntarily requests it, once evidenced the proof of his faith and testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, expressing his willingness to obey the doctrines, statutes, bylaws, norms, and resolutions adopted by the Church. The signature of the *Term of Commitment* at a regular public service at the church will consecrate the appropriate acceptance at the role of members of the church with the given *ad referendum* of the assembly.

Section 2 – Members in communion shall contribute with their offerings and will tribute their tithes to the Lord God, which are intended for the maintenance of workers, formation and expansion of the Church's social patrimony, and other purposes provided for in this Bylaws.

Section 3 – Members will not respond subsidiary by the social obligations of the BETHLEHEM MINISTRY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, but the Church itself will respond with its patrimony, through the elected board.

Section 4 – It is not mandatory for anyone to remain enrolled or a member of the BETHLEHEM MINISTRY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, The removal of the member will be by death, by change and upon request, and the member may freely leave, at any time.

ARTICLE 5 – MINISTRY – THE BODY OF MINISTERS

Section 1 – The Ministry, presided over by the Superintendent, consists of the Ministers of the church (Certificate, Licensed and Ordained Ministers).

Section 2 – The President Pastor shall appoint Co-Pastors and Assistant Secretaries to positions of trust.

Section 3 – It is up to the Ministry to advise the President Pastor, when necessary, to solve matters relating to the order and discipline, and to analyze the candidates to the Ministry and Officers of the Church, appoint workers to work in the congregations and decide on administrative and ecclesiastical matters.

Section 4 – Considering the principle of hierarchy, Certified Ministers (Elders), deacons and members shall not participate in discussions nor vote on matters related to The Licensed Ministers (Evangelist) and/or Ordained (Pastor), unless they are invited by the President.

Section 5 - *The Bethlehem Ministry of the Assemblies of God* - will provide credentials to its workers.

ARTICLE 6 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 – The board of Directors consists of a *Superintendent, in the person of Pr. Joel Freire Costa, President of the Assembly of God Church - Ministry of Bethlehem* in the city of Lighthouse Point, FL - USA, a *President, two Vice-Presidents, three secretaries and two Treasurers.*

Section 2 - The Superintendent's Prerogatives are:

1. Appointing the *President* or, at any time, promote his replacement.
2. Supervising and support all organs and departments of the Ministry and the Church.
3. To call the General Assembly to promote Constitution and Bylaws reformation.
4. To call the General Assembly for the election of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – To the Superintendent is reserved the sovereign *right* of all duties incumbent upon the *President*.

Section 4 - The *President* shall be responsible for:

1. Representing the Church, judicially or extrajudicially.
2. The responsibility to administrate the Church and authorize payments of Church expenses.
3. Appointing the leaders of the congregations.
4. The program of Church services and activities
5. Authorizing the execution of Church departments' duties, projects, and plans.
6. The report about Church spending and other expenses related to it.
7. Publishing the report of contribution entries and tithes on a board located at Church treasury's office.
8. Sign with the first or second treasurer, checks or other documents, at his discretion.
9. Comply with and oversees accomplishment of the Church Constitution, Bylaws and other norms established by the Church.
10. To call the General Assembly under the Superintendent's authorization.

Section 5 - The First *Vice-President* shall be responsible for:

1. To assist the *President* on his duties and tasks as per requested.
2. To replace the *President* in his absence and/or impediments.

Section 6 - The *Second Vice-President* shall be responsible for:

1. To assist the *First Vice-President* on his duties and tasks as per requested.
2. To replace the *First Vice-President* in his absence and/or impediments.

Section 7 - The *First Secretary* shall be responsible for:

1. To compose the minutes of meetings.
2. Writing of the correspondences of the Church.
3. Organize and keep up to date the general records of the church, the credentials of Church and Ministry members, the related documents of the Church's office, and the list of members.
4. Having under his custody all meetings minutes.

Section 8 - The *Second Secretary* shall be responsible for:

1. To assist the *First Secretary* on his duties and tasks as per requested.
2. To replace the *First Secretary* in his absence and/or impediments.

Section 9 - The *Third Secretary* shall be responsible for:

1. To assist the *First Secretary* on his duties and tasks as per requested.
2. To replace the *First Secretary* in his absence and/or impediments.

Section 10 - The *First Treasurer* shall be responsible for:

1. Signing with the *President* or the *First or Second Vice Presidents* when applicable, checks and other documents.
2. Prepare documents relating to accounting and accountability.
3. To prepare the list of tithers and contributors.
4. Comply with the determinations regarding to the Church's financial directions.

Section 11 - The *Second Treasurer* is responsible for:

1. To assist the *First Secretary* on his duties and tasks as per requested.
2. To replace the *First Secretary* in his absence and/or impediments.

Section 12 - No member of the board shall be remunerated for the exercise of the position that serves at the board. Those exercising ecclesiastical functions are entitled to a prebend established by the finance committee.

Section 13 - The elected board shall have a two-year term on the office, exceptions made in those cases of discipline, or consecutive abandonment of worship and/or midweek services and/or leadership meetings without a reasonable cause with express and formal notice to the President. After proper examination of the Ministry of the Church, the disciplined member will suffer the immediate loss of the competent office.

Section 14 - The positions of *Superintendent, President, First and Second Vice-Presidents*, shall always be held by ordained Ministers.

ARTICLE 7 - ELECTIONS

Section 1 - The term for the positions of the board of directors and Section shall be for a period of two years after which a new election shall be held.

Section 2 - The election of the board of directors shall be called to a date at least seven days before the expiration of the actual Board's term.

Section 3 - The President Pastor *is not* subject to election and will only be replaced in the cases provided on Art. 8, Section 2.

Section 4 – The *Superintendent Pastor* shall submit to the *Ministry* a list with the names to fulfill the positions of the Board of Directors and Section that after approval shall be presented to the respective *ad-referendum* of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 8 - VACANCY

Section 1 – The Superintendent will *be* replaced in his vacancy due to death or possible discipline of the Bethlehem Ministry.

Section 2 – The vacancy of the *office of President Pastor*, will take place by discretion of the Superintendent Pastor, or in case of discipline in the event of serious misconduct, sin, after the due investigation and resolution of the Ministry of the Church according to Art. 13, Section 2, or for retirement, or transference, or death, or resignation.

ARTICLE 9 - MEETINGS

Section 1 – Public meetings shall be held every Sunday and during the week as determined by the President Pastor and Ministry in accordance with the provisions of Art. 6, Section 4:4.

Section 2. The Ordinary General Meetings shall be called verbally during the services 15 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Section 3 – Extraordinary General Meetings shall be called in accordance with Art. 6, Section 4:10, whenever necessary for urgent and relevant matters to be resolved.

Section 4 – The General, Ordinary or Extraordinary Assemblies shall be held with the same quorum of 2/3 (two thirds) of the members of the Church, at the first convocation or with any number 30 (thirty) minutes later.

1. The Extraordinary General Assemblies should not be called any time after the service prior to its convocation.
2. In the event of non-convocation, the Extraordinary General Assembly may only be held for extreme urgency, with a proved minimum quorum of 2/3 (two-thirds) of all members of the Church.

ARTICLE 10 - FINANCE

Section 1 – All funds for the support and maintenance of the Church shall come from voluntary contributions, offerings, donations and tithes of members or friends of the Church or from resources provided for in Art. 11, Section 1 of this bylaws which shall be accepted according to Holy Scriptures Mt. 3.10-14, Luc. 6.38, I Cor. 16.1-2, II Cor. 9.6-7.

Section 2 – The Audit Committee *shall be* responsible for the conference of the Church's financial movement before the preparation and presentation of the annual report to the Church.

ARTICLE 11 - PROPERTIES

Section 1 – The *Assembly of God – Ministry of Bethlehem*, has the right, under the provisions of the Art. 11, Section 2 of these bylaws, to buy and sell, to rent and dispose as appropriate of real state property or any other property, as may receive offerings, grants, donations of any nature, as well as to sign contracts and agreement with Companies, Foundations and Federal Entities, State and City Authorities in accordance with this bylaws.

Section 2 – All Church properties shall hold deed under its name *and none* of its actual properties may be sold, rented, mortgaged or subject to any type of transaction without it having been authorized by the Superintendent Pastor and Board of Directors, ratified by the General Assembly.

Section 3 – In the event of dissolution of the Church, after fulfilling all its commitments and responsibilities, the remainder assets will be destined to another society etc. which is domiciled in Denmark or in another EU/EEA member state and has a charitable or otherwise non-profit object.

Section 4. In the event of a deviation or transgression of the Rules of Faith adopted by the Church in accordance with the terms of the General Council of Assemblies of God and/or Bethlehem Ministry in Brazil, to the faithful members of such principles, whatever the number remaining in the Church, shall be given the possession and administration of documents and all assets of the Church.

ARTICLE 12 - MEMBERS' RIGHTS

Any member in perfect communion with the church, who keeps its obligations and responsibilities to the Church, have the right to:

1. Participate in the Ordinary, Extraordinary General Assemblies.
2. Vote for the choice of board members.
3. Be appointed to compete for a position always and when your name has been indicated on the grounds of its ability and reputation.
4. To know about the application of the Church's financial resources.

ARTICLE 13 - PENALTIES

Section 1 - The penalties to which the members are subject are:

1. Warning
2. Suspension of communion and positions
3. Dismissal.

Section 2 – Members who depart from the obedience to biblical principles, ordinances and other rules required by the Church, including the Articles of faith mentioned in Art. 11, Section 4, shall be subject to disciplinary measures.

Section 3 – On the event of an accusation against any member of the church, it shall be addressed to the Local Pastor or another member of the Ministry. There shall be a proper investigation by the Pastor himself or by a special committee appointed by the same and/or Ministry when applicable.

Section 4 – The member of the Ministry, or the Board of Directors, or leading a local church, or in any other position of leadership or not shall be immediately removed from his office in the event of suspension of communion or dismissal of the Church.

Section 5 – The President Pastor and the Board of Directors will be authorized to review annually the list of members to revalidate or not the appropriate credentials soon after the verification of attendance to the services.

ARTICLE 14 - CONGREGATIONS AND LOCAL PASTORS

Section 1 – Congregations are administered by the *President Pastor* through their *Local Pastors*.

Section 2. The position of the Local Pastor of the Congregation shall be held as a position of trust and may be replaced at any time in accordance with the provisions of Art. VI, Section 4.

ARTICLE 15 - QUORUM

The quorum for decisions at any meeting may not be less than one third (one third) of the members of the Church, subject to the provisions found in these bylaws.

ARTICLE 16 - AMENDMENTS

This bylaws may be amended at the General Assembly by a vote of 2/3 (two-thirds) of the members since the amendment proposal has been called and approved by the Superintendent Pastor, also approved by the General Ministry (head office – USA) and the local board of directors, and a copy of the draft project stayed in the Office of the Church for the acknowledgement of members of the Church for at least fifteen days before the meeting specific called for this purpose.

ARTICLE 17 - OMITTED

The omitted cases in this Bylaws will be resolved by the Superintendent Pastor and/or Ministry and General Assembly depending on their importance or severity.

Esbjerg Denmark.

Joao Luis Gomes