

**Constitution and By-Laws  
of the  
International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.**

**CONSTITUTION**

**Preamble:**

Whereas, it is the divine purpose of God to call out of the world a people for the praise of His name, who shall constitute the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20-22), Jesus Himself being the Chief cornerstone; and

Whereas, the members of the church, which His body, are enjoined together to assemble for worship, instruction in the Word of God and fellowship, and for the exercise of those gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; therefore

Resolved, that we recognize ourselves as an independent organization to be known as the INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE FIRST BORN, INC., and that our outside activities is evangelism, missions, or the oversight of those local assemblies be known as the work of the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.; further

Resolved, that we declare ourselves to be in fellowship with God's people everywhere (of like precious faith), who share the same faith and practice with us, and where Christ is being lifted up, and where the Word of God is being taught and honored.

The principle on which this work shall proceed may be summed up in the words: "in essentials-unity; in non-essentials-liberty; in all things-charity."

**Article I - Name and Location (Headquarters)**

The corporate name shall be the INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE FIRST BORN, INC. (Hebrews 12:23), located in the City of Stockton, California, United States of America.

**Article II- Territory (Sphere of Ministry)**

It shall include the whole world in general and in particular, the United States of America and the Philippines.

**Article III- Nature**

This Organization is a cooperative and spiritual fellowship based upon mutual agreements, voluntary entered to by its members.

**Article IV- Prerogatives (Purpose)**

Sec. 1. To teach and approve all Scriptural truths, precepts and principles for Christian conduct and ministry.

Sec. 2. To encourage and promote the evangelization of our territory (state), or country, and the world. Sec. 3.

To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.

Sec. 4. To establish and maintain such departments and learning institution as maybe necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.

Sec. 5. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of, such property, real or chattel, as maybe needed for the prosecution of its work.

\* Our mission is summed up in these words:

- To be an active participant of the global harvest of lost souls for God's kingdom.
- To be a corporate "household of faith' where believers may collectively worship our Lord.
- To be God's divine instrument in nurturing the body of saints to be perfected in the image of God's only Son Jesus Christ.
- To be God's active agency in preparing and equipping every individual believer to become a disciple-making disciple of Jesus Christ to the ultimate glory of God.

**Article V- Principles**

This Organization shall represent, as nearly as possible, the Body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scripture. It shall recognize in detail, the principles inherent in the body as also inherent in this fellowship, cooperation and equality. It recognize that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason for being as an agency of God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, Jesus.

## **Article VI- Statements of Fundamental Truths (Articles of Faith)**

### **Sec. 1. The Bible (Scripture)**

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and practice, superior to conscience, tradition and reason, but not contrary to reason (2 Tim. 3:1-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

### **Sec. 2. God**

We believe to the one true God (Deut. 6:4; Ex. 20:1-3; Isa. 45:5-7; 1Cor. 8:4), who has revealed Himself in nature, and in the Bible as the eternally self-existent One, self-revealed "IAM" (Ex. 3:14); and further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association within the Godhead, i., e., as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19-20; 2Cor. 13:14).

### **Sec. 3. God the Father**

We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1-31), as the absolute and omnipotent ruler of the universe.

### **Sec. 4. God the Son**

We believe that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity possesses all the attributes which He share with the Father; He is coequal, and coeternal with the Father (John 1:1; 10:30; 14:9). We believe that Jesus Christ is co-creator of the universe (John 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:2). We believe in the virgin birth (incarnation) which necessary for Him to become man to save mankind from their sin (Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Isa. 7:14; 53:10-13; Matt. 1:21).

We believe that Jesus Christ, He alone the savior of men through His sacrificial death effective by our faith on Him (John 3:16).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ (1Cor. 15; Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-9; John 20:1-15).

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to receive the Church, which is His body, unto Himself at the Rapture, returning with His Church in glory, will establish His millennial kingdom on earth (Acts 1:11; 1Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:1-4).

### **Sec. 5. God the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity, including intellect (2Cor. 2:10-13), emotions (Eph. 4:30), will (1Cor 12:11), eternity (Heb. 9:14), omnipresence (Ps. 139:7-10), omniscience (Isa. 40:13-14), omnipotence (Rom. 15:13), and truthfulness (John 16:13). In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; 2Cor. 13:14).

We believe in the unique ministry and manifestation of the Holy Spirit in this age began on the day of Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ (John 14:16,17; 15:25). One of His ministries is His baptizing work, baptizing the believers with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 1:8; 2:1-40 as the Spirit gives them utterance. The baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1Cor. 12:4-10,28) but different and purpose.

We believe in this respect, that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today.

### **Sec. 6. Man**

We believe that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Man was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition and self-determination, and moral responsibility to God (Gen. 2:7,15; James 3:9). God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify God, and enjoy God's fellowship. Because of Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will of God, man lost innocence; incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death; became subject of the wrath of God; and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace. Man's salvation is thereby wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-19; John 3:36; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3).

### **Sec. 7. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is wholly of God's grace and on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works (John 1:12; Eph. 1:4-7; 2:8-10; 1Peter 1:18,19). Man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, and being justified by grace through faith he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11; John 3:16).

#### **Sec. 8. Regeneration**

We believe that regeneration is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are imparted (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (John 5:24), when the repentant sinner responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation which is Jesus Christ.

#### **Sec. 9. Justification**

We believe that justification is an act of God (Rom. 8:30-33) by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 2:4; 2Cor. 7:10). This is a legal act of God vindicating a sinner, declaring him not guilty before Him, and placed the righteousness of Christ on him.

#### **Sec. 10. Sanctification**

We believe that every person who is justified is sanctified (set apart) unto God for holy purpose. This aspect of sanctification is positional (initial) and is instantaneous. As the believer grows in his spiritual life, he is progressively and ultimately sanctified. This aspect of sanctification shall be realized when believers are glorified with Him in glory (1Cor. 1:2, 30; Heb. 2:11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1Thes. 5:23; Phils. 3:12; Eph. 5:25,27; 1John 3:5-9).

#### **Sec. 11. Church**

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body, the church (1Cor. 12:13, the bride of Christ (2Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32), of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18). The church is composed of all "born-again" believers who were called out for assembly and fellowship for the praise of His name. It is unique spiritual organism designed by Christ made up of all Christians in this present age (Eph. 2:11-3:6).

#### **Sec. 12. Ordinances of the Church**

We believe that there are two ordinances of the church: baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:38-42). Christian baptism by immersion is the solemn and outward testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:1-11). The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination (1Cor. 11:23-32). This ordinance should be observed by all believers as a memorial of Christ's death and suffering. The elements of bread and the fruit of the vine symbolizes His body and blood that was sacrificed and shed at the Cross (Matt. 26:26-29).

#### **Sec. 13. The Promise of the Father (cf. Sec. 5.)**

All believers are entitled, and should ardently expect, and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This was the normal experience of all the early church. With it comes endowments of power for life and service, the bestowment of gifts and their purpose in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; Acts 1:8). This wonderful experience is distinct and subsequent from the experience of the new birth (Acts 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). The initial physical evidence of this baptism is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4).

#### **Sec. 14. Divine Healing**

We believe that God still heals today. This is a deliverance from physical sickness and infirmities. It is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers (Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16,17; James 5:13-15).

#### **Sec. 15. Angels**

We believe that the angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. Although they are a higher order of creation than man, they are created to serve God and to worship Him (Luke 2:9-14; Heb. 1:6). These holy angels have also specific ministry to the believers.

We believe that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator (Is. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19) by taking numerous angels with him in his fall (Matt. 25:41; Rev.

12:1-14), and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve (Gen. 3:1-15). These fallen angels and Satan are the open and declared enemy (adversary) of God and man (Is. 14:12-17; Rev. 20:10).

#### **Sec. 16 Mission and Evangelism**

We believe that the outside ministry of the church is evangelism and mission. This is the proclamation of preaching of the Gospel of Christ to all people in every place in a persuasive manner with the purpose of making Christian converts. This is the Great Commission of Christ to the church to go into all places to make Christ known to all people (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20).

#### **Sec. 16. The Rapture**

We believe on the personal bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ before the seven-year tribulation (1Thess. 4:13-17; Titus 2:13) to translate His church from this earth (John 14:1-3; 1Cor. 15:51-53) and, between this event and His glorious return with His Saints, to reward believers according to their work (1Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10). This is the blessed hope of the church.

#### **Sec. 18. The Tribulation Period**

We believe that immediately following the removal of the church from the earth (John 14:1-3; 1Thess. 4:13-17) through the Rapture, the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:27-31; Rev. 16). This period includes the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27), as the seven-year tribulation period.

#### **Sec. 19. The Millennial Kingdom**

We believe that after the tribulation period, Christ will return to earth to occupy and reign on the throne of David as King of kings and Lord of lords. This will be a literal one thousand year reign of Christ, and it will be characterized by universal peace, righteousness and prosperity (Rev. 20:1-4; Isa. 11; Ezek. 36:33-38).

#### **Sec. 20. Lake of Fire**

We believe in the literal hell and Lake of Fire, a literal place of torment and suffering. This is the final abode of the devil and his fallen angels, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10-15).

#### **Sec. 21. New Heaven and New Earth**

We believe that all the saints, washed by the precious blood of Christ will finally spend with God in eternity into the new heaven and new earth. This will be an unending joy in the presence of God, for there will be no more tears and pain (2Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21-22:1-5).

#### **Sec. 22 Marital Relationship (Marriage)**

We believe that marriage is ordained by God Himself. It is an intimate and complementing union between a man and a woman in matrimony for which the two become one physically, in the whole of life. God's design for marital relationship is heterosexual, not homosexual, and monogamous, not polygamous (Gen. 2:21-24; Matt. 19:4-6).

### **Article VII- Relationship**

Sec. 1. This Organization shall recognize itself as an independent organization known as the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. It also recognizes itself as an independent body, but it is in full fellowship with all the local assemblies under this Organization.

Sec. 2. Local assemblies should be in full fellowship with the mother organization (IAFB) designed to facilitate the workings of the same and the carrying of the principles and mission set forth in Article IV and V of this Constitution.

### **Article VIII- Local Church Affiliation**

Sec. 1. All local assemblies seeking affiliation with the Organization (IAFB) must provide a resolution, letter of intent to the Board of Presbyters for review and approval.

Sec. 2. Local assemblies (churches) desiring to be affiliated with the Organization shall also meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (a) Accept the Statement of Fundamental Truths as set forth in Article VI of this Constitution.
  - (b) Adopt a standard of membership which may be determined either by the local church or by agreement with the Organization.
  - (c) Have a minimum active membership of twenty (20) persons who shall accept their full responsibility of maintenance of Scriptural order in the local assembly.
  - (d) Adopt a local Constitution and By-Laws compatible with those recommended by the Organization.
  - (e) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its Constitution and By-Laws.
  - (f) Make provision for a pastor to be a licensed minister in good standing with the Organization.
  - (g) Make provision for dissolution in the event of local assembly ceases to function; that after paying debts and obligations, the remaining assets shall revert to the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.
- Sec. 3. All local assemblies affiliated with the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. shall cooperate in the work and support of its programs and may send delegates to the Annual Convention of the Organization; pay membership fee, license fees, and church dues.
- Sec. 4. The Organization recognizes the right of each local assembly to self-government under Jesus Christ as its living Head. Each local assembly shall have power to choose its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life and operation as a local assembly. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its by-laws. It shall have the right to acquire property, vesting title in the corporate name. The fact that a local assembly is affiliated with the Organization shall in no way jeopardize its rights as stated, or interfere with its sovereignty.
- Sec. 5. Each local assembly shall recognize that the Organization has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct, and to disapprove all unscriptural doctrine and conduct. When in need to counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the Organization for help.
- Sec. 6. Any member of the local assembly may appeal from the decision of the said assembly to the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. Such appeal must be filed with the Secretary two weeks before consideration.
- Sec. 7. In the event there is a conflict within the local assembly that necessitates conflicting parties to separate themselves from each other, that local assembly shall revert to the control and government of the Board of Presbyters.
- Sec. 8. Each local assembly shall be under the supervision of the Executive Board on certain conditions.
- Sec. 9. Each local assembly shall support the home and foreign missions and make provision for regular contributions for its support.

#### **Article IX- Membership**

- Sec. 1. The regular membership of the Organization shall consist of:
- (a) All ministers licensed under the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.
  - (b) All other persons who are members of the local assemblies under or affiliated with the Organization (IAFB), at least 13 years and above, with real born again experience, believing the Fundamental Truths of the Organization, and with a sincere desire and purpose to live a righteous life and with consistent moral character maybe accepted as active members of the Organization.

#### **Article X- Voting Constituency**

Sec. 1. The voting constituency shall consist of all licensed ministers of the Organization and all official delegates, designated and authorized by their respective local church. Each local assembly being entitled to one (1) delegate per twenty (20) members; with the minimum delegate of each local church one (1); maximum delegates five (5).

#### **Article XI- Dissolution**

Sec. 1. The assets of the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc., a California Corporation, is irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes as stated in its Articles of Incorporation. In the event of dissolution or liquidation, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the Corporation, the remaining assets will not be used for the benefit of any private person or persons, but all such remaining assets will be distributed to a non-profit organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section the Organization shall have established tax exempt status.

Sec. 2. The Board of Presbyters shall determine and implement the provisions of this Article through the Board of Elders.

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I- Parliamentary Laws**

In order to expedite the works of the Organization and avoid confusion in its deliberations, the Organization shall be governed by the accepted rules of Parliamentary Procedures, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

### **Article II- Office**

The principal office of the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. shall be located and established in Stockton, California, USA.

### **Article III- Officers**

The Officers of the Organization shall compose the following:

Sec. 1. **The Executive Officers**-Composed of the Superintendent, Vice Superintendent, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Sec. 2. **Board of Elders**-Composed of the Superintendent, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Sec. 3. **The Board of Presbyters**- Composed of the Executive Officers, and all elected District Presbyters.

Sec. 4. **The Departmental Officers:** Youth (MC) Department; Ladies Missionary Corps; Missionary Department; Christian Education Department and Men's Fellowship.

### **Article IV- Qualifications of Officers**

#### **Sec. 1. Executive Officers**

They shall be chosen from the ordained ministers, members of the Organization. Shall be men and women of mature experience and ability in the ministry, and whose life and ministry are above question. Must meet the New Testament standards for leadership (1 Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).

**Sec. 2. Board of Elders**- Same as with Section 1. of this article

#### **Sec. 3. Presbyters**

All candidates for the office of presbyter must be an ordained minister of the Organization. They must be Spirit-filled, men and women with mature experience in the Lord as well as in the ministry. They must be committed to the Fundamental Truths and missions of the Organization.

#### **Sec. 4- Departmental Officers**

Must be 18 years old and above and a license (exhorter, license to preach, ordination) minister under the Organization. Active member of the Organization as well as a local assembly, committed to propagate and support the Assembly's (Organization) missions as set forth in Article IV and V of this Constitution.

### **Article V- Election of Officers**

Sec. 1. All the executive officers and presbyters, except as hereinafter provided, shall be elected at one of the Organization's regular conventions according to the manner of election provided for.

Sec. 2. The elected officers shall serve for two (2) years commencing five (5) days after the Convention.

Sec. 3. All candidates for the office of Superintendent, Vice-Superintendent and Secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election (two-third) has been declared after the third ballot the candidate receiving the most votes on the third ballot shall be declared elected.

Sec. 4. Candidates for treasurer shall be elected in the following manner. The Board of Presbyters, being the nominating committee shall be entrusted with the responsibility of evaluating the qualifications and general fitness of available person for this position and shall select by secret ballot, one or more names to be presented to the General Assembly in session for election. A two-thirds vote casts shall be necessary to constitute an election.

Sec. 5. All candidates for the Board of Presbyters shall be nominated from the floor. The nominees shall be arranged into their respective districts; namely the Southern District and Northern District. The four nominees for presbyters and one (1) nominee for alternate presbyter from each district, receiving the highest number of votes shall constitute an election.

Sec. 6. Departmental Officers- All departmental officers except the Messengers of the Cross shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the Organization. The manner of election shall be by nomination from the floor. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be declared elected.

## **Article VI- Duties and Power of Officers**

### **Sec. 1. Superintendent**

- a) To emphasize and implement of the programs and missions of the Organization as set forth in the Article IV & V of the Constitution of this Organization; to promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of this mission through meetings and communications.
- b) To supervise and lead of all the work on the field conducted in behalf of the Organization.
- c) To supervise all the work of the General Offices, act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex-officio member of all committees and boards.
- d) To preside at all meetings and sessions of the Board of Presbyters, as well as the General Assembly; and to receive communications directed to that body.
- e) To preside at all meetings of the Credential Committee and sign all credentials.
- f) To administer discipline in all cases, when requested by the Board of Presbyters. g) To sign all official documents.
- h) To perform any other functions, usual or customary, as presiding officer.
- i) To assist the Secretary and Treasurer in communications and in the financial records.

### **Sec. 2. Vice Superintendent**

- a) To assume the duties and responsibilities of the Superintendent in his absence. b) To be a member automatically of the Board of Presbyters.
- c) To perform such functions, usual and customary, or as may be directed by the Board of Presbyters, or the Executive Officers.

### **Sec. 3. Secretary**

- a) To make and keep true records of the proceedings of the Organization, and to publish the same, as directed by the Board of Presbyters.
- b) To act as secretary of special and regular sessions of both the Board of Presbyters and the Organization.
- c) To sign credentials; all official and legal documents, and to perform such other functions, as directed by the Board of Presbyters.
- d) To act as ex-officio member of all committees.
- e) To appoint an assistant as needed to assist him in his duty.

### **Sec. 4. Treasurer**

- a) The basic duty of the treasurer is to be the custodian of the Organization's funds, and to deposit the same when received, in the name of the Organization.
- b) To make a quarterly report to the Board of Presbyters.
- c) To make an annual report to the Assembly during annual convention, using accounting procedure. d) To keep and accurate record of all disbursements and receipts and to conduct the work of the office according to accepted method of business. His book shall be audited annually, just prior to the session of the Organization.
- e) To act as ex-officio member of all committees. f) To appoint an assistant as needed.
- g) To perform such functions as usual or customary, as may be directed by the Board of Presbyters.

### **Sec. 5. Board of Elders**

- a) To act as trustees of all properties of the Organization.
- b) To be the legal representative of the Organization in all legal matters, the power of attorney being vested upon the members.
- c) To be the sole signers of all contractual papers or other legal documents in both sale and acquisition of properties, real or chattel.

### **Sec. 6. Board of Presbyters**

- a) To be the official policy-making body of the Organization.

- b) To have a general oversight of the activities of the Organization during the interim between organization's sessions.
- c) To act for the Organization in all emergency matters that affect its interest, while the Organization is not in session, and shall make a true report to the Organization.
- d) To provide for its own meetings; its decision shall be final unless reversed by the Organization.

**Sec. 7. Departmental Officers.**

- a) Presidents/Directors- To act as head of the Department and preside all meetings both regular and special.
- b) To have a general oversight of the ministry and functions of the Department.
- c) To formulate and implement programs of the Department with respect to its specific mission and goals.
- d) Vice Presidents/Asst. Directors- To take the responsibilities of the president/director in his/her absence. To assist the officers of the Department in their responsibilities as needed.
- e) Secretary- To keep an accurate records of all meetings and correspondence. To assist the President/Director in his/her responsibilities.
- f) Treasurer- To keep an accurate records of the Departments funds, using simple accounting procedures. Make reports as directed by the President/Director.
- g) The Department should be in full cooperation with the Organization.

**Sec. 8. Vacancies**

- a) Executive Officers: In the event an office becomes vacant on the ground of death, resignation, incapacity, disciplinary action, or incompetent leadership and performance, the Board of Presbyters shall be empowered to fill up such vacancy or vacancies until the next election with the exception of the office of the Superintendent. The Vice Superintendent shall succeed in the event vacancy occurs.
- b) Board of Presbyters: In the event a vacancy occurs, the alternate presbyter shall fill the office or the Executive Officers shall appoint a successor.

**Sec. 9. Recall**

In the event that any officer of the Organization, elected or appointed, shall prove, in the judgment of his/her brethren, to be inefficient, or unable the duties of the position, or if any reason it may seem advisable that he/she ceases to function in the capacity as an officer, the Board of Presbyters shall voluntary resignation. He maybe recalled by two-thirds majority of all votes casts at any regular or special session of the Organization.

In order that a recall may be made a legitimate item or business, it shall be necessary that a petition be presented and signed by at least majority of the members of the Board of Presbyters, said petition to be signed and notice of contemplated action to be filed with the Secretary, at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the regular or special session.

**Article VII- Local (church) Assemblies**

Sec. 1. Local assembly is defined as a local church organized and affiliated with the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc., with its pastor as the official leader.

Sec. 2. All local churches of the Organization has the right to self-government provided they don't contradict and violate the principles, missions and teachings of the Organization.

Sec. 3. All local assemblies must be in full fellowship with the Organization, to help promote its missions, support its programs and policies.

**Article VIII- Committees**

Sec. 1. **Credential Committee**- Shall be composed of the executive officers with two (2) members from the Board of Presbyters. It shall have the authority to issue, approve or disapprove credentials for ministry.

Sec. 2. **Standing Committee**- Shall be appointed as needed, and may be required by the Board of Presbyters. They shall serve for a designated time until their purpose is accomplished. In the event of vacancy shall occur the Executive Officers shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

Sec. 3. **Special Committee**- Maybe created by the Organization in session or the Board of Presbyters between sessions as may be necessary. Such committee shall be agreeable to the body that created and shall cease to exist when they have their final report.

Sec. 4. **Auditing Committee**-There shall be a created auditing committee composed of three (3) members who shall be either minister or member of the Organization. They shall be appointed by the Board of Presbyters. Their terms of office shall be determined by the same Board.

## **Article IX- Ministry**

Sec. 1. **Ministry** is described as spiritual service rendered by an individual or group, called by God to do His work in the church.

Sec. 2. **Ministry gifts** are given by Christ to the Church for the purpose of equipping the members to become responsible, so that, they can also minister to others.

### **Sec. 3. Classifications of Minister**

- a) **Ordained ministers** are those who have mature experience in the ministry, Spirit-filled men and women to undertake the full responsibility of full Gospel ministry.
- b) **Licensed ministers** are those who give evidence of being divinely called by God, who devoted their time and live to the preaching of the Gospel, whether in church, missions, or other ministry.
- c) **Licensed Exhorters** are those beginners in the Gospel ministry or who does not yet devote their time to the work of the ministry.

### **Sec. 4. Qualifications of Ordained Minister**

- a) Qualifications for ordination must be in accord with the New Testament guidelines for ministry (1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1Peter 5:1-4).
- b) Applicants must be 23 years of age, or older.
- c) No minister shall be ordained in the ministry until he/she shall have a licensed to preach, and shall have been engaged in the work of the ministry, as a pastor, evangelist or missionary for at least three (3) full consecutive years.
- d) Ministers from other organization (transferee) shall not be ordained with the Organization until they shall proven themselves two (2) years under the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.
- e) All candidates for ordination shall appear before the Credential Committee for evaluation and interview. After such interview and approval, they shall appear before the Assembly for confirmation. All ordinations shall be performed before the Assembly at its annual convention.

### **Sec. 5. Qualifications of Licensed Minister**

- a) Candidates shall show a clear and vital Christian experience, a clean walk with God free from a life of adultery, fornication and homosexuality. He shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- b) Bible school graduates or those who have completed reading in correspondence courses recognized by the Credential Committee shall be eligible.
- c) Exhorters who have been proven themselves three (3) years in the ministry and having passed the interview and examination prescribed by the Credential Committee
- d) All candidates shall appear before the Credential Committee for interview and evaluation.

### **Sec. 6. Qualifications of License exhorter**

- a) A faithful member and efficient helper in gospel work who has a desire to devote a part of his time to Christian service, under the supervision of a pastor, may be granted a license to exhort

### **Sec. 7. Basic Qualifications of a minister**

The basic qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- a) Testimony of having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- b) Testimony of having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues, according to Acts 2:4.
- c) Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the internal witness of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of fellow and mature Christians.
- d) A Spirit-filled life and a good report to those who are without (1Tim. 3:7; Titus 1:7); a life free of adultery and fornication.
- e) A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of this Organization.
- f) A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices and purposes (missions) of the Organization.
- g) An active loyalty of our Constitutional agreements, cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.
- h) Educational or Bible training is desirable in the ministry, but it is not the sole requirement to apply for credentials.

Sec. 8. **Eligibility of Women in the Ministry-** The Scripture plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve in the ministry of the church (Joel 2:29; Acts 2:1-9; 1Cor. 11:5). Women who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable and who have proved their

qualifications in actual service and have met all the requirements of the Credential Committee are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant has the right to administer the ordinance of the church.

**Sec. 9. Marital Status and the Ministry**

- a) We disapprove of any married minister holding credentials, if minister or spouse has a former companion living.
- b) We disapprove of any homosexual relationships, but we recognized heterosexual marriage relationships.
- c) Divorce and Remarriage
  - 1) All applicants who divorced and remarried, and who have former spouse living whose separation has taken place before or after they are saved shall be denied any credential. However, we recommend that Christian people who have entangled in their marriage before conversion, and who do not see how matters can be adjusted, be received into the membership of local assemblies and their marriage complications be left in the hands of God (1Cor. 7: 17, 20, 24).
  - 2) We recommend that in no case, shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.
  - 3) We discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matt.5:32; 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light and in the counsel of God's Word (1Cor. 7:10-11,15,27,28).
  - 4) We recommend that the New Testament standard in 1Tim. 3:12; Titus 1:5-9 that restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of pastor, bishop, elder, or deacon be upheld by all local assemblies. However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service, for which these believers may be qualified, be made available to them.
  - 5) We disapprove of any of our ministers performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living. Any minister who performs a ceremony for a disapproved marriage, unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, shall be subject to disciplinary action. A minister shall counsel applicants for marriage, prior to performing the ceremony. He may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom and sobriety.

**Sec. 10. Transfer and Re-admission**

- a) Ministers of other organization who feel in their conviction that the Lord has called them to work with International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. shall first furnish the Credential Committee a letter of release or clearance from the former organization before their application is considered.
- b) The applicant must also meet the basic qualifications and marital status as stated in the Organization's by-laws.
- c) It is expected that ministers moved to the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. will relinquish their affiliation from former or other organization.
- d) Ministers whose credentials have been revoked, or those who voluntarily separate from the Organization, may apply re-admission to the ministry through recommendation of the Board of Presbyters, with a probationary period of three (3) years. Ministers who resigned from the Organization, under honorable conditions, may apply for re-admission through the recommendation of the Board of Presbyters.
- e) Applicants for credentials must pass the examination provided by the Credential Committee, with following exception, recommendation by the Board of Presbyters.

**Sec. 11. Resignation or Revocation**

- f) Ministers who resign from, or whose credentials are revoked by the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. must surrender to the Organization their credentials and certificates, and all church's properties, documents and legal rights acquired as a minister of the Organization.
- g) They shall refrain from taking any form of action that will cause division, dissension or strife within the rank of the International Assemblies of the First Born, Inc., ministers and members alike.

**Sec. 12. Privileged Communication**

Ministers are encouraged to respect, as sacred and confidential, information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and not to disclose such confidential information, except with the permission of the confidant, or to prevent of the commission of a crime.

#### **Sec. 13. Exercise of Biblical Discipline**

(a) Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

(b) Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature, as well as corrective, and it is to be exercised with love and compassion (Gal. 6:1-5; Matt. 16:19; 18:18; 1Cor. 2:6-8).

(c) Causes of disciplinary actions are:

- (1) Violation of the Constitution and By-Laws
- (2) Conduct unbecoming to a minister, or indiscretions involving morals. (3) General inefficiency in the ministry.
- (4) Failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony. (5) Contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
- (6) An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.

d) Discipline of members- Members affiliated with the Organization including local assemblies who may be accused of unscriptural conduct or doctrine, shall be subject to discipline by the Board of Presbyters. Such discipline shall be administered upon a complaint filed in writing with the Secretary and signed by at least three (3) persons in good regular standing in the Organization. The Superintendent and the Secretary shall make an investigation, and in their judgment the case seems to require judicial action, the accused shall be given a proper hearing before the Board of Presbyters as a whole, or before a committee appointed by the same, and if found guilty, shall be dropped from the roster or be removed from office.

e) A two-thirds majority of the Board of Presbyters shall be necessary to disfellowship any member of the Organization, and said decision shall be regarded as final, unless the party found guilty shall avail himself or herself of the right to appeal. Notice of appeal from the decision of the Board of Presbyters must be filed with thirty (30) days after notice of such decision shall have been given.

#### **Sec. 14. Violation of Ministerial Courtesy**

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of local assemblies, whether it by going in upon their work without consent, or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leaders. All correspondence which concerns the whole Organization shall be addressed to the person in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the Organization. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural discipline. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the renewal of the minister's credentials. Sec. 15. **Stewardship**

According to Scripture, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord, and not be given to charity or other purposes. In tithing, ministers ought to be examples. We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements be made, satisfactory to the pastor and the church, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes should necessarily belong to the pastor for his support.

### **Article X - World Mission**

Sec. 1. We believe in foreign mission and purpose of an organization to work in the plans and methods of the Missionary Department of the Organization. We recommend that all local assemblies adopt a world mission program and that the funds of the support of world missions or our own missionaries be transmitted to the Missionary Department of the Organization.

Sec. 2. Recognizing the importance of home mission, we recommend that the work of home missions be adequate place in the evangelization programs of every local assembly and that a suitable percentage of funds raised for missionary purposes be transmitted to the Organization to be disbursed at the discretion of the Missionary Department. It is recommended that 20% of funds raised for missionary purposes be used in the development of the home mission.

Sec. 3 Special Funding Request

The Missionary Department may request an application from the Treasury to meet budgetary shortfalls; approved special projects, or emergency needs. Each request for such funding shall be approved by the Board of Presbyters.

#### **Article XI- Institutions**

This Organization may establish and maintain school or schools, as needed may require, or cooperate with such schools as may have already been established for the training of candidates for the ministry; for children and the aged and retired ministers and missionaries.

#### **Article XII- Conventions, Conferences and Fellowship**

Sec. 1. Regular Convention will be held once a year on the third week of the month of July. Ministerial conference shall also be held once a year. Board of Presbyters shall also decide the schedule of this conference.

Sec. 2. All ministers must attend annual conventions and ministerial conference. Members are also encouraged to attain. Likewise, all members are encouraged to attain Fellowships.

#### **Article XIII- Order of Business Meeting**

Sec. 1. At all regular and annual sessions of the Organization and as far as may be practicable, and all other business sessions; the following shall be the order of business: a)

Determination of the presence of quorum.

b) Announcement and confirmation of Committees.

c) Reading and disposal of minutes of previous session. d)

Report of the Superintendent. e) Report of the Secretary. f)

Report of the Treasurer.

g) Report of other officers, if any. h)

Report of the Roster Committee. i) Report

of other Committees. j) Unfinished

business. k) Election of Officers. l) New

Business.

m) Adjournment

Sec. 2. All business sessions of the Organization, Board of Presbyters, shall begin with the reading of Scripture and prayer and shall end with prayer.

#### **Article XIV- Quorum**

Sec. 1. Majority of the voting constituency present and registered at the Annual Convention of the Organization shall constitute a quorum, and that the majority of the vote of said quorum shall constitute a valid corporate act except when the law otherwise provided.

#### **Article XV- Finances**

Sec. 1. In view of the fact that the administration of the Organization officers involves considerable expenses, and that said officers be adequately financed in order that their administration may be efficient, it shall be understood that the Board of Presbyters shall have authority to make such drafts upon the funds as shall be necessary for the maintenance of said officers. Free-will offerings received at the Convention shall be transmitted to the Treasurer for this purpose,.

Sec. 2. Each local assembly is requested to send 1/10<sup>th</sup> of all monies received every month, except for offerings designated for Missions, love offering, building funds, and interest paid on mortgages.

#### **Article XVI- Resolutions**

Any author of any resolution/proposal submitted to the Organization for adoption shall be expected to sign the resolution and open the discussion of the same on the floor.

#### **Article XVII- Amendments/Revision**

Sec. 1. Amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws may be made at any regular or special session of the Organization, provided they have been submitted to the Board of Presbyters, and upon approval by said body. Notice of the proposed change may be made by circular letters if the Board of Presbyters shall so elect. A copy of the circular letters shall also be sent to members at least three (3) weeks prior to the session of the Organization.

Sec. 2. A two-thirds majority of all members present shall be necessary for adoption.

NOTE:

This (Revised) Constitution and By-Laws shall be forwarded and submitted to the IAFB Board of Presbyters for review, evaluation and approval; to all the ministers of the Assembly for further reading and review; and to the body for deliberations, final review and adoption.

REVISED and Drafted: October 2001

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\*This section was drafted by Rev. Ray G Cueto

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Presbyters in its meeting, July 16, 2002 and adopted by the Assembly on July 20, 2002. Proposed changes and amendments  
August 2013 NP DeLaTorre Stockton, CA

