

# Constitution and By-Laws

## Filipino 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), Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; and

Whereas, the members of the Church, which are His body, are enjoined together to assemble for worship, for instruction in the Word of God, for 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 **FILIPINO ASSEMBLIES OF THE FIRST BORN, INC., (FAFB)**, and that our main activities are evangelism, missions and the oversight of local assemblies, known as the work of the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. Furthermore;

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-love".

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

The corporate name, registered with the State of California, shall be the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. (Heb. 12:23). The home office is located in the City of Stockton, California, United States of America.

The Organization has elected to operate under the Fictional Business Name (FBN), The **INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE FIRSTBORN, (IAFB)**, with a FBN, filed in the County of San Joaquin, California, United States of America.

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

Originating from California to Hawaii and to the uttermost parts of the world as the Lord enlarges our territory.

#### **Article III - Nature**

This Organization is a cooperative and spiritual fellowship based upon mutual agreements, voluntarily entered into 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 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 institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the Filipino 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 may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

Our **mission** is summed up in these words:

- To be an active participant in the global harvest of lost souls for God's kingdom.
- To be a corporate "household of faith" where believers may collectively worship our Lord, be nurtured and be perfected in the image of God's son Jesus Christ.
- To be God's active agency in preparing and equipping every 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. It shall recognize in detail, the principles inherent in the body as also inherent in this fellowship, cooperation and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its primary reason for being an agency of God, and a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints 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, a 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 Pet. 1:20-21).

##### **Sec. 2. Trinity**

We believe in the one true God (Deut. 6:4; Ex. 20:1-3; Isa. 45:5-7; 1 Cor. 8:4), who has revealed Himself in nature, and in the Bible as the eternally self-existent One, self-revealed "I AM" (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; 2 Cor. 13:14).

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

We believe God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1-31) and the absolute 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 He shares 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 was necessary for Him to become man to save mankind from their sin (John 1:14; 3:16; Isa. 7:14; 53:10-13; Matt. 1:21).

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only savior of man through His sacrificial death effective by our faith in Him (John 3:16).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 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, then later returning with His Church at the Advent (His Second Coming), to establish His millennial kingdom on Earth (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 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 (2 Cor. 2:10-13), emotions (Eph. 4:30), will (1 Cor 12:11), eternality (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; 2 Cor. 13:14).

We believe 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; 2:1-4) 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 (1 Cor. 12:4-10, 28) but different in 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 created by God in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:16-17).

Man was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination and moral responsibility. God's highest intention and ultimate purpose in the creation of man was that man should glorify God and enjoy His fellowship forever. However, because of man's voluntary transgression in disobedience to the revealed will of God, man lost his innocence; incurred the penalty not only of physical death but also of spiritual death which is separation from God; became subject to 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. God in His great mercy and compassion provided a way for man to be reconciled to God through repentance and faith in His son Jesus Christ. 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. 6:23; Rom 5:12-19; Eph 2:1-3).

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

We believe that salvation is wholly of God's grace and on the basis of the redemptive work 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; 1 Pet. 1:18,19). When a person humbly comes to Christ and acknowledges Him with a repentant heart, believing, confessing and accepting Christ as Saviour and Lord, he receives salvation and is born-again spiritually (Rom. 10:9-10; John 3:5-7; John 1:12). By the regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, and being justified by grace through faith in Christ, 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; 2 Cor. 7:10). This is a legal act of God vindicating a sinner, declaring him not guilty before Him, and crediting 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 (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; Heb. 2:11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thes. 5:23; Phi. 3:12; Eph. 5:25, 27; 1 John 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 (1 Cor. 12:13), of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18). The Church, also known as the Bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32), is composed of all "born-again" believers who were called out for assembly and fellowship for the praise of His name. It is a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ made up of all Christians in this present age (Eph. 2:1-3:6).

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

We believe that there are two ordinances of the Church: Water 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 (Rom. 6:1-11). The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Cor. 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; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

### **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 for all members of 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 to 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 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 a unique and specific ministry to 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 (Isa. 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 (Isa. 14:12-17; Rev. 20:10).

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

We believe that the outside ministry of the local church is evangelism and missions. This is the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ to all people in every place compelling them to come to Christ and personally experience His saving grace. The Great Commission of Christ to the Church is to go into all places to make Christ known to all people (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20).

### **Sec. 17. The Rapture**

We believe in the personal bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ before the seven-year tribulation (1 Thess. 4:13-17; Titus 2:13) to translate His church from the earth (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-53). Between this event (Rapture) and His glorious return with His Saints (Second Advent, AKA the Revelation), Christ will reward believers according to their work (1 Cor. 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; 1 Thess. 4:13-17) through the Rapture, the righteous judgment of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:27-31; Rev. 16). This period is also known as the Seventieth Week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27), 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. 20:14; Isa. 11; Ezek. 36:33-38).

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

We believe in a 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 in 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 eternity with God in the new heaven and new earth. There will be an unending joy in the presence of God, for there will be no more tears and pain (2 Pet. 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 in 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 Filipino 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 (FAFB) designed to facilitate the workings of the same and the carrying forth 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 (FAFB) must provide a resolution, letter of intent to the Board of Presbyters for review and approval.

**Sec. 2.** Local assemblies 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 assembly or by agreement with the Organization.
- (c) Have a minimum active membership of twenty 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. Each local assembly shall be pastored by a minister licensed by the FAFB, Inc.

- (g) Make provision for dissolution in the event the local assembly ceases to function; that after paying debts and obligations, the remaining assets shall revert to the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.

**Sec. 3.** All local churches affiliated with the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. shall cooperate in the work and support of its programs and send delegates to the Annual Convention of the Organization; pay membership fees, license fees, and assembly dues.

**Sec. 4.** The Organization recognizes the right of each local church to self-government under Jesus Christ as its living Head. Each local church 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 church. 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 name of the FAFB, Inc. The fact that a local church is affiliated with the Organization shall in no way jeopardize its rights as stated, or interfere with its sovereignty.

**Sec. 5.** Each local church 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 of counsel or advice, the local church may appeal to the Organization for help.

**Sec. 6.** Any member of a local church may appeal the decision of the said church to the FAFB. Such an appeal must be filed with the General Secretary two weeks before consideration.

**Sec. 7.** In the event there is a conflict within the local church that necessitates conflicting parties to separate themselves from each other, that local church shall revert to the control and government of the Board of Presbyters.

**Sec. 8.** When a local church ceases to function in accordance with Sec 2. of Article VIII, that local church shall revert to the supervision and control of the Executive Board.

**Sec. 9.** Each local church shall support home and foreign missions and make provision for regular contributions for their support.

## **Article IX - Membership**

**Sec. 1.** The regular membership of the Organization shall consist of:

- (a) All ministers licensed under the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.
- (b) All other persons who are members of the local assemblies under or affiliated with the Organization (FAFB), at least 16 years of age 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 with consistent moral character may be accepted as active members of the Organization.

## **Article X - Voting Constituency**

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 delegate per twenty members; with the minimum delegate of each local assembly one; maximum delegates five.

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

**Sec. 1.** The assets of the Filipino 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 organization(s) which are organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section the Organization has 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 work of the Organization and avoid confusion in its deliberations, the Organization shall be governed by the Robert Rules of Order, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

### **Article II - Office**

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

### **Article III - Officers**

The Officers of the Organization shall be composed of the following:

**Sec. 1.** The Executive Officers: Composed of the General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, General Secretary, and General Treasurer.

**Sec. 2.** The Board of Elders: Composed of the General Superintendent, General Secretary, and General Treasurer.

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

**Sec. 4.** The Department Officers: Messengers of the Cross (Youth Department); Ladies Missionary Corps (Women's Department); Peace Makers Fellowship (Men's Department); Missionary Department; and Christian Education Department.

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

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

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

#### **Sec. 2. Board of Elders**

Same as with Section 1 of this article with this exception - the Assistant General Superintendent is not a member of the Board of Elders.

#### **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 mission of the Organization. A Licensed Minister may be elected to the Board of Presbyters if no Ordained Minister is available to serve as a presbyter.

#### **Sec. 4. Department Officers**

Must be at least 18 years of age, and a licensed (exhorter, license to preach, ordination)

minister under the Organization. Must also be a member of the Organization as well as a member of a local assembly, committed to propagate and support the Organization's mission 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.

**Sec. 2.** The elected officers shall serve for two years commencing ninety (90) days after the Convention.

**Sec. 3.** All candidates for the office of General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent and General Secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If an election has not been declared after the third ballot, the candidate receiving the most votes on the third ballot shall be declared elected.

**Sec. 4.** Candidates for General 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 persons for this position and shall select the General Treasurer by secret ballot.

**Sec. 5.** All candidates for the Board of Presbyters shall be nominated from the floor. The ten nominees for presbyters receiving the highest number of votes shall constitute an election.

**Sec. 6.** Department Officers: All department 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. General Superintendent**

- (a) To emphasize and implement the programs and mission of the Organization as set forth in 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 all the work in the field conducted on 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 General Secretary and General Treasurer with communications and the financial records.

**Sec. 2. General Assistant Superintendent**

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

**Sec. 3. General 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 an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (e) To appoint an assistant as needed to assist him with his duties.

**Sec. 4. General Treasurer**

- (a) The basic duty of the General 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 keep an accurate record of all disbursements and receipts and to conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business. His books shall be audited annually, just prior to the session of the Organization.
- (d) To act as an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (e) To appoint an assistant as needed.
- (f) 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 sessions of the organization.
- (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 decisions shall be final unless reversed by the Organization.

**Sec. 7. Department Officers.**

- (a) Presidents/Directors: To act as head of the Department and preside at all meetings both

regular and special. To have a general oversight of the ministry and functions of the Department. To formulate and implement programs of the Department with respect to its specific mission and goals.

- (b) 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.
- (c) Secretary: To keep accurate records of all meetings and correspondence. To assist the President/Director with his/her responsibilities.
- (d) Treasurer: To keep accurate records of the Department's funds, using basic accounting procedures. Make reports as directed by the President/Director.
- (e) The Department should be in full cooperation with the Organization.

### **Sec. 8. Vacancies**

- (a) Executive Officers: In the event an office becomes vacant due to death, resignation, incapacity, disciplinary action, or incompetent leadership and performance, the Board of Presbyters shall be empowered to fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next election with the exception of the office of the General Superintendent. The Assistant General Superintendent shall succeed in the event a vacancy occurs.
- (b) Presbyters: In the event a vacancy occurs, 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 to perform the duties of the position, or if for any reason it may seem advisable that he/she cease to function in the capacity as an officer, the Board of Presbyters shall request voluntary resignation or he may be recalled by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast at any regular or special session of the Organization.

In order that a recall may be made a legitimate item of business, it shall be necessary that a petition be presented and signed by at least a majority of the members of the Board of Presbyters, said petition to be signed and notice of contemplated action to be filed with the General 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 Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. with its pastor as the official leader licensed with the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.

**Sec. 2.** All local churches of the Organization have the right to self-government provided they do not contradict or violate the principles, mission and teachings of the Organization.

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

## **Article VIII - Committees**

**Sec. 1. Credential Committee:** Shall be composed of the executive officers with two members

from the Board of Presbyters selected or appointed by the executive officers. It shall have the authority to issue, approve or deny credentials for ministry.

**Sec. 2. Standing Committee:** Shall be appointed as needed by the Board of Presbyters. They shall serve for a designated time or 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 maybe necessary. Such committee shall be amenable to the body that created it and shall cease to exist when they have given their final report.

**Sec. 4. Auditing Committee:** A three-member committee shall be created, appointed by the Board of Presbyters. Members can either be ministers or members of the Organization. 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 the Holy Spirit to the Church for the purpose of equipping the members to become responsible in their ministry and service 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 responsibilities of a full Gospel ministry.
- (b) Licensed ministers are those who give evidence of being divinely called by God, who can devote their time and lives to the preaching of the Gospel, whether in church, missions, or other ministry.
- (c) Licensed Exhorters are beginners in the Gospel ministry.

### **Sec. 4. Basic Qualifications of a minister**

(Note: Pertains 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 (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 (1 Tim. 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 highly desirable in the ministry. This is one of the requisites to apply for credentials. We encourage all applicants to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
- (i) All ministers are required to complete study courses as outlined by the Credential Committee.
- (j) All ministers must be active members serving the ministry of the local church. They shall be active in their support of the local church with their tithes and offerings.
- (k) Ministers who do not attend a local FAFB, Inc. church must submit one-half of their tithes to the General Treasurer.

**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 and/or Bible correspondence courses recognized by the Credential Committee shall be eligible.
- (c) Exhorters who have proven themselves three 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. Qualifications of Ordained Minister**

- (a) Qualifications for ordination must be in accord with the New Testament guidelines for ministry (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Pet. 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 license to preach, and shall have been engaged in the work of the ministry, as a pastor, evangelist or missionary for at least three full consecutive years.
- (d) Ministers from other organizations (transferee) shall not be ordained with the Organization until they shall have proven themselves two years under the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc.
- (e) All candidates for ordination shall appear before the Credential Committee for evaluation and interview. After such an interview and approval, they shall appear before the Assembly for confirmation. All ordinations shall be performed before the Assembly at its annual convention.

**Sec. 8. Marital Status and the Ministry**

- (a) We disapprove of any married minister holding credentials, if the minister or spouse has a former companion living.
- (b) We disapprove of any homosexual relationships, but we recognize heterosexual

marriage relationships.

(c) Divorce and Remarriage:

- (i) All applicants who divorced and remarried, and who have a former spouse living shall be denied Ordination. However, for those who divorced prior to being saved, who have been ensnared in their marriage before conversion, and who do not see how matters can be adjusted, be received into membership of local assemblies and their marriage complications left in the hands of God (1 Cor. 7: 17, 20, 24).
- (ii) We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living together without being legally married.
- (iii) We discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We disapprove of Christians getting divorce 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 (1 Cor. 7:10-11, 15, 27, 28).
- (iv) We recommend that the New Testament standard in 1 Tim. 3:12 and 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.
- (v) 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, may 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. 9. Eligibility of Women in the Ministry**

The Scripture plainly teaches that divinely called and qualified women may also serve in the ministry of the church (Joel 2:29; Acts 2:1-9; 1 Cor. 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 credential their qualifications warrant. They shall have the right to administer the ordinances of the church.

### **Sec. 10. Transfer and Readmission**

- (a) Ministers of other organizations who feel in their conviction that the Lord has called them to work with FAFB, shall first furnish the Credential Committee a letter of release or clearance from their former organizations 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 transferring to the FAFB, will relinquish their affiliation from former or other organizations.
- (d) Ministers whose credentials have been revoked, or those who voluntarily separated

from the Organization, may apply for readmission to the ministry through recommendation of the Board of Presbyters, with a probationary period of three years. Ministers who resigned from the Organization, under honorable conditions, may apply for readmission through the recommendation of the Board of Presbyters.

- (e) Applicants for credentials must pass the examination provided by the Credential Committee and must sit in an interview conducted by the Credential Board.

### **Sec. 11. Resignation or Revocation**

- (a) Ministers who resign from, or whose credentials are revoked by the Filipino Assemblies of the First Born, Inc. must surrender to the Organization their credentials and certificates, and all church properties, documents and legal rights acquired as a minister of the Organization.
- (b) They shall refrain from taking any form of action that will cause division, dissension or strife within the rank of the FAFB, 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 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; 1 Cor. 2:6-8).
- (c) Causes of disciplinary actions are:
  - (i) Violation of the Constitution and By-Laws
  - (ii) Conduct unbecoming of a minister, or indiscretions involving morals.
  - (iii) General inefficiency in the ministry.
  - (iv) Failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony.
  - (v) Contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
  - (vi) 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 General Secretary and signed by at least three persons in good regular standing in the Organization. The General Superintendent and the General 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) **Disfellowship of a Member:** 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 within thirty days after the decision of the Board of Presbyters has 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 is by going in upon their work without consent, or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as this 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 ministers and members to pay tithes to their local church. 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 that missionary work, both foreign and domestic, is essential to the life of the Church. Further, we believe that a purpose of the Organization is to work with the Foreign and Home Missions Departments, to provide financial assistance and direction where possible. We recommend that all local assemblies adopt a mission program and that the funds for the support of Foreign Missions be remitted to the Foreign Missions Department and funds for Home Missions be remitted to the Home Missions director.

**Sec. 2.** We believe the need of our home assemblies be addressed through the efforts of the Home Missions Director. It is recommended that funds raised from mission assessments be used in the development of foreign missions. Funds raised from special appeals for foreign or home missions shall be remitted in total.

**Sec. 3** **Special Funding Request:** The Missions Departments may request an application for funds 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 need may require, or cooperate with such schools as may have already been established for the training of candidates for the ministry; and shall be in sympathy with the establishing and maintaining of homes for children and the aged and retired ministers and missionaries.

## **Article XII. Conventions, Conferences and Fellowships**

**Sec. 1.** Regular Convention will be held once a year in the third week of the month of July. Ministerial conferences 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 conferences. Failure to attend the annual Ordination Service and Ministerial Conference without valid reasons for two consecutive years will result in suspension of one's credentials.

## **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 a quorum.
- (b) Announcement and confirmation of Committees.
- (c) Reading and disposal of minutes of the previous session.
- (d) Report of the General Superintendent.
- (e) Report of the General Secretary.
- (f) Report of the General 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**

Majority of the members present and registered at the Annual Convention of the Organization shall constitute a quorum, and the majority of the vote of said quorum shall constitute a valid corporate act except when the law otherwise provides.

## **Article XV- Finances**

**Sec. 1.** In view of the fact that the administration of the Organization, by its officers, involves considerable time and expenses, and that said officers should 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 of the Organization as shall be necessary for the maintenance of said officers. Free-will offerings received at the Convention shall be transmitted to the General Treasurer for this purpose.

**Sec. 2.** Locals shall send 10% of their annual tithes receipts to the General Treasurer.

## **Article XVI- Resolutions**

The 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/Revisions**

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 weeks prior to the session of the Organization.

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

REVISED: 2017-2020:

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