

## **EXCERPTS FROM**

ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL ASSEMBLIES, INC.



**Constitution and Bylaws**  
**Articles of Faith and Doctrine**

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- **INTERNATIONAL...**

## DEDICATION

*By the founder and Late General President*

DR. GRANVILLE M. RAYL

March 1, 1988

It is a great honor for me to be able to dedicate this book to the One who made this Association possible, "Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Without Him we can do nothing, but through Him we have built a great Association of Ministers and Churches reaching souls throughout the world.

Also we give credit to the faithful office staff and all the faithful members. If I had room I would mention each member's name, for words cannot express how much I love each one. Some I have personally met and some I have never had the privilege of meeting in person, but if we all endure until the end, we shall meet on that Great Day when the Lord calls us Home. Then we can sit on the golden shores of the River of Life and have for all eternity to visit and praise our Lord.

This Association was started on August 2nd, 1962, in the City of St. Louis, Missouri. Little did we realize that it would grow so large as it has today. But what thrills me is the love and fellowship we have together as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

This Association started not as a denomination, but as an association. We are trying not to be too denominating, but give our ministers the freedom to be led by God through the Holy Ghost. Of course, we have by-laws and obligations to be met, but not to the extent that they will interfere with our ministers being led by the Spirit of God.

We have everything to offer our members that they could get in the large denominations, but we don't tell our members where they have to go to church. We don't tell our ministers where they can preach. In other words, our members are free to preach, pastor and work anywhere the Lord leads.

After having several members to leave this association and start their own association, and after even having some to try and take over this association, we decided it was time to take another look at our corporation by-laws and constitution to ensure that this will never happen. And, in doing so, we have up-dated our corporation status to meet today's corporation laws.

Under our new set-up we are required to operate with committees in all areas instead of individual leaders. This has caused a need for more officials in all areas of the association. So, if you are a leader, we need you!

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(Updated 06-13-22)

*This AIGA Bylaws book contains excerpts from the current Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. Constitution and Bylaws, Articles of Faith and Doctrine book. These excerpts are those from the current Bylaws book which pertain to AIGA membership credentials and AIGA ministry charters. The complete AIGA Constitution and Bylaws book will be issued upon request.*

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
of the  
ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL ASSEMBLIES**

**VII**

*(Page 4 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

This Corporation and Association is formed for religious and benevolent purposes only and shall not be used for unrelated businesses or to engage, otherwise than in an insubstantial manner, in activities which themselves are not in furtherance of the enumerated exempt purposes. Neither shall this Corporation become involved in activities to influence legislation even though such activities be religiously impelled.

This Corporation shall not be used for pecuniary gain or profit of its members, except that a reasonable salary may be paid to members being employed as office staff or for services rendered by other members as Officials. All salaries shall be approved by the Corporation Board of Directors.

Furthermore, this Corporation and Association is formed as an independent religious society, being neither affiliated with any religious specific denomination nor subject to the ecclesiastical rule of any religious hierarchy.

**VIII**

*(Pages 4 and 5 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

The objects and purposes of this Association shall be to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Old and New Testament Scriptures; to practice and promote the Christian Religion according to the Gospel of the New Testament Scriptures; to convert persons to the Christian Religion.

To establish a Board of Directors in which shall be reposed the power to ordain qualified persons to the full work of the ministry; to ordain those persons to the ministry who have attained the age of 21 years, who have completed a high school education, and, or its equivalent, and to issue credentials to ministers who have previously been ordained elsewhere, authorizing them to do and perform all duties commonly connected with their offices as ministers, and who have demonstrated to the satisfaction and approval of the Board of Directors that they are completely acquainted with the Gospel and Scriptures of Jesus Christ and are in every respect qualified for the ministry.

To issue ministerial credentials to young ministers who are not yet ready for ordination. To issue Exhorters ministerial credentials to persons who are just beginning in the ministry. To issue Membership Credentials to Christian Workers to show that they are legal members of the Association.

To issue Association charters to our churches, evangelistic groups, missions, gospel singing groups, campgrounds, Christian Schools, Bible Colleges and Christian colleges authorizing them to operate under this Corporation's 501 (c) (3) tax exemption letter. Such chartered groups being responsible for obtaining their own State tax exemption and abiding by the statutes of the State in which they operate.

**IX**

*(Page 5 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

This Corporation shall have authority to issue or refuse credentials based upon Christian character and ability. No person shall be refused credentials because of nationality, race, or color, so long as they meet all other qualifications. There shall be no limit to the number of members the Corporation may admit.

Members shall be admitted only after proper investigation by the Credential Committee and approved by the Corporation Board of Directors. All new members shall be issued a certificate and an annual membership card, issued by the general secretary and signed by the general president. Certificates shall be replaced if lost or destroyed. New annual membership cards will be issued to each member upon payment of their annual membership fees.

The Annual Membership fees and Chartered Groups' obligations to the Corporation will be adjusted from year to year to satisfy the financial needs of the Association. Any member failing to pay their annual membership fee, after being notified three times in writing, shall then be required to surrender their credentials and membership cards, and should they have other Charters, they will be required to return them to headquarters. It shall be considered unlawful for any person, church, or religious group to use credentials or a charter issued from this Association if they are not in good standing with this Corporation.

**Articles of Faith and Doctrine  
of the  
ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL ASSEMBLIES, INC.  
Doctrinal Statement**

*(Page 12-16 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

As Ministers and Christian Workers joined together for voluntary and cooperative fellowship and service in the Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc., we have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us (Luke 1:1). Praying that there be no harmful or divisive difference of peace and harmony of the Association and Church, and that we may be all of the same mind and judgment, speaking the same things (1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42), in love with one voice glorify God, edify His people and give Christian witness to the world.

### **1. SCRIPTURES**

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Pet 1:21). The New Covenant as recorded in the New Testament, we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine (2 Tim 3:15-17). "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable, for "reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Also see (1 Pet 2:1-2).

### **2. THE GODHEAD**

Our God is one, but manifested in three persons, the Father, The Word, and the Holy Ghost (1 John 5:7). GOD, the Father is greater than all (John 14:28), the Source and the Begetter of the Word (John 1:14, John 16:28), "No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" (John 1:18). The SON, is the Word, flesh covered, the One Begotten, and has existed with the Father from the beginning (John 1:1, 1:14, 1:18), being co-equal with God (Phil 2:6). The Holy Ghost proceeds forth from God the Father, (John 14:26, John 15:26), and is eternal (John 14:16), Being promised by Christ from the Father to all fully cleansed believers (John 14:16, 17).

### **3. MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION**

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God (Gen 1:26-27), but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin has entered into the world (Rom 5:12), "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23), "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one" (Rom 3:10). Jesus Christ, the Son of God was manifested to undo the works of the Devil, and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (1 John 3:8). Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from the works and the law, and is made operative by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Eph 2:8).

### **4. NEW BIRTH AND ETERNAL LIFE**

Man's first step toward salvation is a godly sorrow that worketh repentance (2 Cor 7:10). The new birth is necessary to all men (John 3:3-8), and when fulfilled produces eternal life with God (1 John 5:12). We believe that eternal life with God in Heaven is the reward of the finally righteous (Matt 24:13, Mark 13:13), and that everlasting banishment from the presence of the Lord, and unending torture in Hell is the fate of the persistently wicked (Matt 25:46, Ps 9:17, and Rev 21:7-8).

### **5. SANCTIFICATION**

Sanctification leads to Holiness (Rom 6:22). "Follow peace with all men, and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord (Heb 12:14). We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of Salvation (1 Thess 5:23, 2 Pet 3:18, Phil 3:12-14 and 1 Cor 1:30).

### **6. BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE**

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire (Matt 3:11) is a gift from God as promised through the Lord, Jesus Christ (John 14:16, Acts 1:4-5), to all fully cleansed believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the new birth

(John 14:17, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:39). He is accompanied with the speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, as the initial physical sign and evidence (Acts 2:4, Acts 10:44-46).

## **7. THE CHURCH**

The true Church is the body of Jesus Christ (Rom 12:5, 1 Cor 12:1-14), Christ being the Head (Eph 4:15-16, Col 2:19). Its earthly constituents are men and women, born of the Spirit, living Holy lives, striving to do the will of God. To the Church is delegated the various gifts and offices of the Holy Ghost (1 Cor. 12:1-10), necessary for the successful fulfillment of Christ's great commission to the Church as given to the disciples in (Matt 28:19 and Mark 16:15-20).

## **8. WATER BAPTISM**

Baptism in water by immersion is a direct commandment of our Lord (Matt 28:19), and is for believers only (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:37). Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God, the ordinance is a symbol of the Christian identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (1 Pet 3:21, Rom 6:4-5).

The Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. recognizes only ONE FORMULA FOR WATER BAPTISM – Matt 28:19.

We recommend the following formula for Water Baptism, "On the confession of your faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." (Matt 28:19).

## **9. LORD'S SUPPER AND FEET-WASHING**

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior; and, being a memorial of His death, is strictly limited to Christian believers (1 Cor 11:24-30). We believe in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper among all of God's people. Only unfermented grape juice shall be used in connection therewith. We believe that feet washing should follow the Lord's Supper (John 13:1-18). The Lord said in (John 13:14), "ye also ought to wash one another's feet." We believe by doing this command that we shall keep ourselves humble before our Lord.

## **10. DIVINE HEALING**

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18, Jas 5:14-15) and is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of everyone that will accept it (Luke 5:15).

## **11. MINISTRY**

God through the Holy Ghost, definitely calls such as He desires to serve as evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph 4:11), and qualifies the ones called, with power, talents, wisdom, and gifts pertaining to that office or offices (1 Cor 12:28). "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called" (1 Cor 7:20). We pray that our ministers will preach the whole Word of God, not taking away or adding to the Word of God. (Rev 22:18-19).

## **12. WOMEN MINISTERS**

The gifts and callings of God are without repentance, and the Holy Ghost divideth upon each as He wills..." In the last days our sons and daughters shall prophecy..." (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:17-18 and Rom 11:29). When called of God and anointed by the Holy Spirit, our women shall have the freedom to serve in the ministry as they are led by the Spirit.

## **13. TITHES**

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me, but ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings". (Mal 3:8). We believe that all Christians (including ministers) should pay Tithes into the storehouse (Mal 3:10-11). We also believe that our Church members should pay all of their tithes into the church where they are getting their Spiritual food. But we believe that all of our Ministers should pay their tithes into the association general headquarters, where they are getting their protection and their Spiritual help. We do not enforce this, but we encourage it. Pray for the Spirit of God to show you where you should pay your tithes.

## **14. RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS**

We believe in the Pre-Millennial coming of our Lord in the clouds, to catch away His Bride. The angel said, "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner" (Acts 1:11). When He comes, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are

alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...”, (1 Thess 4:16-17). “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” (Rev. 19:7) The marriage supper will last for seven years, during which time will be the Great Tribulation Period here on earth. Following the tribulation, the Lord shall return to earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Rev 20:6).

## **15. FINAL JUDGMENT**

We believe in the great white throne judgment of all. “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev 20:12). “...and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Rev 20:13-14) The lake of fire is literal and eternal. “And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” “Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matt. 25:32-34 and 41).

## **16. MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY**

We believe the only scripturally sanctioned marriage is that joining one man and one woman, and that God’s Word teaches that sexual activity is not to be engaged in except in a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any kind of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sexual sins that God has commanded are not to be engaged in (Romans 1:26-29; I Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). It is cause for dismissal for any member of this Association to engage in consensual sex outside of a legal marriage between one man and one woman who are married to each other. Also, sexual abuse of a minor by any member of this Association shall be cause for dismissal.

## **17. ABORTION**

We believe Scripture teaches that human life begins at conception, and that abortion is the unjustified taking of a human life, and is therefore the murder of a human being. (See Psalms 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5). We do not believe abortion is acceptable for the reasons of birth control, the mental well being of the mother, gender selection, or for the termination of pregnancies caused by rape or incest.

## **JOB DESCRIPTION and QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Ethics Committee**

*(Page 27-28 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

The ethics committee shall be a temporary committee that is active only when a matter of unethical behavior or practice needs to be investigated, and only when the Corporate Board requests such an investigation.

All unethical practices for investigation shall be assigned to a delegated Corporate Board Director who shall appoint a temporary committee for the duration of said investigation and, if deemed necessary, a hearing.

An ethics committee shall have a chairman, secretary, and three committee members. The committee shall act as a unit, not as individuals, unless assigned to act individually by the committee or by the Corporation Board of Directors. The chosen committee members should reside in an area close enough to allow the committee to meet, and when a meeting is held the secretary must be present to take minutes. The minutes must be typed and sent to the Board of Directors for their approval. The Board may request that the proceeding be recorded.

An ethics committee is formed for the sole purpose of dealing with ethics and relating to morality of behavior among the association members as a whole, conforming to an accepted standard of good behavior in a Christian attitude. Our Ministers and members should cultivate mutual fellowship and work in harmony, loving each other with a Godly love. Any member of the association who has ought against another member will be asked to go to that person and settle their differences between the two. If this can not be accomplished and should become an injury to the body of this association, then an ethics committee will be asked to intervene and settle the differences, even to the place of requesting the Board of Directors to remove the troublemakers from this association.

An ethics committee may be asked to participate in special projects as assigned by the Board of Directors, serve as hearing officers in membership grievance procedures, as assigned, and assist in handling disciplinary relations activities with the association.

The ethics committee shall abide by the by-laws of this association as listed under "Ministerial and Membership Relations and Discipline of the Members". If a member of an ethics committee should be inactive or become involved in an ungodly situation that would disqualify the member to serve on the committee, then the Board of Directors would intervene.

QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge of principles and practices of personnel administration, the association's by-laws, governing the qualifications of membership, churches, evangelists, and missions as pertains to the disciplinary matter at hand. Must have ability as a "peace maker", ability to settle disputes and create harmony among the membership of this association, and must be able to cooperate and work with other departments of this Association.

### **Credential Committee**

*(Page 29 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

The acting Credential Committee will meet once each month, generally within the third week. During the meeting applications will be viewed and either approved, disapproved, or held over, according to the decision of the Credential Committee. If an application is approved or disapproved, the applicant will be notified immediately. If an application is held over, the applicant will be notified why the application was held over and when it will be reviewed again. The majority of votes by the credential committee shall rule. The application fee is non-refundable so if an application is voted upon unfavorably, only the donation above the application fee itself may be returned.

### **MEMBERS' DUTIES and QUALIFICATIONS**

**To The**

**ASSOCIATION OF**

**INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL ASSEMBLIES, INC.**

**Information For New Members Applying For Membership**

*(Page 38-41 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

We thank God for the members we now have in this association. We have a great spirit of Godly Love and Fellowship among most of our members. This is our aim and purpose, to continue to build our association with more sincere members with the same vision. We believe in fellowship among all of God's people. We are God's people and there is something wrong if we are divided! If you are a born-again Christian living a sincere life for God, we welcome you into our association.

To keep from there being any division or differences in the body, we insist that you read our By-laws and Articles of Faith. If you fully agree with them, you may apply for membership by completely filling out a credential application; being sure to answer all questions, and provide complete names, addresses and phone numbers for your three qualified recommenders. Failure to complete the application in its entirety will hold up the application process. Send the application, along with the required application fee, to the credential committee for their decision. The credential committee meets each month, during the third week. If your application is approved by the committee, it will take about two to three weeks to get your credential processed and sent to you.

Remember that we don't want you to come in just for the purpose of getting credentials and forget that we even exist, but we want you to come in for the purpose of becoming active in the association.

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **ORDINATION CREDENTIALS: \$200.00 ANNUALLY (application fee of \$40.00)**

*You may choose either of the following methods of payment:*

Pay the Annual Ordination Fee of \$200.00 by July 1 **OR** Pay \$40.00 by July 1 each year and pay an additional \$160.00 in contributions to the General Fund of AIGA throughout the following twelve (12) months from July 1 through July 30.

#### **LICENSE CREDENTIALS: \$150.00 ANNUALLY (application fee of \$30.00)**

*You may choose either of the following methods of payment:*

Pay the Annual License Fee of \$150.00 by July 1 **OR** Pay \$30.00 by July 1 each year and pay an additional \$120.00 in contributions to the General Fund of AIGA throughout the following twelve (12) months from July 1 through June 30.

#### **EXHORTER CREDENTIALS: \$100.00 ANNUALLY (application fee of \$20.00)**

*You may choose either of the following methods of payment:*

Pay the Annual Exhorter Fee of \$100.00 by July 1, **OR** Pay \$20.00 by July 1 each year and pay an additional \$80.00 in contributions to the General Fund of AIGA throughout the following twelve (12) months from July 1 through June 30.

#### **CHRISTIAN WORKER CREDENTIAL: \$50.00 ANNUALLY (application fee of \$10.00)**

*You may choose either of the following methods of payment:*

Pay the Annual Christian Worker Fee of \$50.00 by July 1, **OR** Pay \$10.00 by July 1 each year and pay an additional \$40.00 in contributions to the General Fund of AIGA throughout the following twelve (12) months from July 1 through June 30.



## Financial Obligations Of All Members

We are not a denomination as some accuse us of being, but it does take finances to operate an association as large as we have become, with several thousand members and churches worldwide. Therefore, it is necessary that we all help support the financial needs of our association on a regular basis.

**Only money paid to the General Treasury of the Association, to be used for general cost of operation, will be counted toward credential fee requirements.** Contributions for other purposes such as Missionary support, Charter obligations, the Memorial Fund, Bible College tuition, or for anything other than the general fund do not apply. Such contributions are very much appreciated but cannot be counted toward credential renewal requirements.

Members who have been given a Lifetime Membership are exempt from paying the annual membership fee (Note: to qualify for Lifetime Membership, an AIGA member must be a supporting member in good standing a minimum of five years and be over the age of 70). However, if we do not hear from a lifetime member at least four (4) times a year we will assume that the lifetime member is no longer interested in our association anymore, and they will be asked to turn in their credentials.

All members are encouraged to help as much as possible by contributing tithes and donations on a regular basis.

## Members Qualifications

We recommend,

That all our ministers boldly lift their voices against anything, which would identify our Association and Churches with the world. (1 John 2:15-16) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." Also read (Jas 4:4).

That all who profess the name of Christ keep themselves unspotted from the world by living lives of practical holiness, within and without. (1 Pet 2:21) "For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps". Also (2 Cor 6:17-18). That we will forsake all unrighteousness, even the appearance of evil. We will abstain from all questionable pursuits and pleasures. We will forgo all hurtful habits including the use of tobacco products, the illegal use of drugs, or substance abuse of any kind. We will avoid all evil associates, and we will touch not, taste not, handle not, any unclean thing. That we will follow earnestly after righteousness and true holiness in the fear and love of God.

That our ministers conduct themselves at all times and places in keeping with the dignity that belongs to the high calling of the ministry. (2 Tim 2:6) "The husbandman that labourereth must be first partaker of the fruits". (Titus 1:7-9) "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

That our Ministers and Christian Workers stay clear of all envy, jealousy, tale bearing, and slander of all men, especially our fellow ministers and members. That we will be Christ-like in all our deportment. We will be tender and affectionate toward each other; we will be careful of each other's reputation, thinking no evil, and backbiting not with our tongues; we will return good for evil; we will be just and honest, truthful and honorable in all our dealings, we will do unto others as we hope to be done by; we will be meek, loving and forgiving as we desire and hope to be forgiven. (Jas 1:26) "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain".

We recommend that our homes maintain a family altar, and that due attention be given to daily Bible reading, and consistent church attendance. (Heb 10:25) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching".

We urge our pastors see to it that order and a spirit of reverence be maintained in all our churches, that our members

To be specific:

We believe ministers and lay workers should maintain an appearance that would be appropriate to the high calling of the ministry. We expect that the men should be clean cut in appearance and that the women should not have their hair cut in a way that would appear to be a manly style. **In order to clarify this matter for membership applicants and current members, we have been advised that we should be very specific about regulation hairstyles.** *We expect the men to wear their hair no longer than the bottom of their shirt collar in the back, clearing the ears on the side, and cut close enough to the head so as not to appear to be a woman's fluffy hairstyle. Beards and mustaches should be neatly trimmed, not wild and bushy. We expect the women not to wear hairstyles that are cut very close to the head, shingled or shaved up the back in a manly style.*

*We expect both the men and women members of our Association to dress modestly. We do not believe that shorts, no shirts, low cut or revealing tops, swimsuits, mini-skirts and too-tight clothing are appropriate attire for Christians.*

never lose the vision of duty to God and His Son, Jesus Christ; and that winning of souls should be top priority in our lives. We will do whatever Christian work that comes to hand, shunning no cross, shirking no duty, to lead souls from sin and death, and lead them to God and heaven.

That our members, both men and women, give due consideration to their mode of dress and appearance. We believe Christians should not follow immodest styles in dressing, but as become examples of faith. (I Tim 2:9-10; I Cor 11:14).

That our members teach against and completely abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages. We, as God's people, should be temperate in all things. God has declared in His Scripture that strong drink is a mockery. We see the increased evil of drink, and the trouble it causes, wrecking homes, wrecking lives, and bringing death to many. I Thess 5:6-7-8: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

To be specific:

When a divorce and remarriage has occurred after salvation, the following procedure for reasons of divorce and remarriage is generally recognized or followed by this Association, namely Adultery, Abuse, or Abandonment as explained below:

1. When an individual has received salvation, then backslides, divorces and remarries, AIGA will view it the same as one who is considered to be presently living for the Lord. We believe that after having known Christ, the person knows better than to divorce and remarry for unscriptural reasons.
2. We recognize applicants for credentials who are divorced from a spouse because said spouse committed adultery against them during their marriage. It must be stated clearly and signed that the applicants said ex-spouse committed adultery against them.
3. In claims of abuse or abandonment there is to be written, signed statements from two individuals who have knowledge of the situation. In the case of abuse, if two witnesses do not write and sign a statement, it must be proven by a police report. Claimed "abuse" must be proven to be of a nature that it was intended to cause physical danger to the applicant, and the circumstances are to be fully disclosed.
4. More than one divorce and remarriage by an applicant will definitely be called into question, and will be extensively reviewed.
5. Persons who remarry, divorce, or divorce and remarry after receiving credentials from this association must report such changes in marital status and expect that it will be investigated. If the reasons given for remarriage, divorce, or divorce and remarriage are unacceptable, it may result in dismissal from membership in AIGA, and revocation of credentials. Any false statements in regard to a remarriage, divorce, or divorce and remarriage may be cause for expulsion from AIGA.
6. It is to be understood that any statements pertaining to the applicant's divorce/remarriage situation made by said applicant or a witness or witnesses who claim knowledge of said divorce/remarriage situation that are later found to be false, inaccurate, or misleading may result in said applicant's credentials with AIGA being revoked and declared nonrenewable, as well as will failure to disclose important details that might have a bearing on the AIGA Credential Committee's decision about said applicant.
7. All information pertaining to a divorce/remarriage situation is to be submitted in writing and signed.
8. Should AIGA's Credential Committee reach a decision to reject such applications for credentials it shall be considered final.

That when a divorce and remarriage has taken place previous to being saved; the matter shall be left to the individuals concerned and their conscience. See Acts 11:9 and Ps 103:12. Our Lord told the woman caught in adultery to "go and sin no more." (John 8:11). We believe our Lord taught in Matt 19:9 that divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery "except it be for fornication". "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." (Mark 10:11-12. Also see Rom 7:1-3.)

Many families have been disrupted and children have been denied the comfort of their parents and their God-given privilege of a home, and as we deem it contrary to decency and the compassion of God, therefore we pray that our ministers preach and teach against the separation of families over the divorce question.

That our ministers preach the Word, try the Spirits, see if they be of God, not being carried away by every wind of doctrine, not adding to or taking away from the Word of God. See (2 Tim 4:2-5, I John 4:1-2, Eph 4:14, and Rev 22:18-19).

### **MINISTERIAL AND MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS AND DISCIPLINE OF THE MEMBERS**

*(Page 42-43 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

(A) Our ministers and members should cultivate mutual fellowship and work in harmony, loving each other with a Godly love. No minister or member shall lend themselves to any disgruntled element in any of our churches for any purpose that

might do injury to the pastor or the members, or causing dissention and strife. Any minister or member doing such is liable to drastic discipline.

Our ministers and members must cooperate in every possible way to encourage and promote the progress and growth of our Association and its cause.

(B) After becoming a minister or member of this Association, if the teachings and practices of said member should become out of harmony with our Articles of Faith and practice, or if the character of a member should become such as that it does not pertain to a Christian, if such person cannot be reconciled, then their name will be dropped from the membership roll of this Association and they shall be required to surrender their credentials.

If any member at any time should leave this Association for any cause, either by their own choice or by the choice of this Association, they must, by the Constitution and Articles of Agreement, surrender their credentials, and this Association will not be responsible or liable for any of their legal duties as a minister or Christian, by the laws of the land.

Any minister or member circulating a petition or doing anything to create an unrestful condition among our membership group shall be called to meet an ethics committee. If proven guilty, they shall be dealt with as the Corporation Board of Directors sees fit.

Our ministers and members shall conduct themselves in an orderly and dignified state at all times, especially in hospitals and other public places.

(C) DISCIPLINE: In all matters of difference between members the Bible procedure shall be followed. First, let the disagreeing members make an honest effort to settle their differences in privacy, and if unsuccessful, then let the matter be brought before the ethics committee.

Any charge against a member shall be in writing, over the signature of the accuser. The written charge shall be sent or presented to the Corporation Board of Directors, who will notify the chairman of the ethics committee. The chairman will call the committee together, at the nearest convenient time. The accuser must be present to back up their written accusation. The accused must be present to defend themselves against the charges. If the accuser or the accused fail to appear before the committee to answer the charge, without a just cause, they shall be deemed guilty and disciplined accordingly. No questions must be asked nor can any evidence be submitted, unless the question and evidence have a direct bearing upon the charges already filed. It will be the duty of the chairman to enforce this procedure.

If the defendant is guilty and confesses and truly repents and shows a contrite heart, recommendation is made for leniency and, if possible, full restoration after a suitable time of probation. If the charges are proven true, and of sufficient nature, the defendant's name may be ordered removed from the membership list of this Association and their credentials surrendered.

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

A person who has appeared at a hearing and is proved innocent, or who has repented and made restitution, shall not appear for a second hearing on the same charge. Any person or persons causing dissention or division by referring to the former charge, either by mouth or by writing, shall be liable to discipline. (Prov 26:20) "Where there is no talebearer, strife ceases".

As stated above, "the Bible procedure shall be followed". When the procedure in Matt 18:15-17 is followed, and the matter is not resolved, then the matter is to go before the Church (represented by the Ethics Committee). In accordance with Paul's teaching in I Cor 6, we believe when a disagreement occurs within the church, or a member is otherwise subject to Church Discipline, the church has scriptural authority to settle such matters, and it is not to be taken to law. "For the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them..." I Cor 2:14.

In hearings before the Ethics Committee, each person represents himself or herself. No legal representation is to be present. We do not believe the Church should relinquish the Biblical authority it has been given by God's Word to handle church-related disciplinary problems. Any person who decides to be heard before an Ethics Committee of this Association shall do so with the understanding that the matter will come under the authority of the Church, and the decision reached shall not be made a legal matter providing that no party involved has committed an illegal act which this association would be obligated to report to the proper authorities.

## **CHARTERED CHURCH'S OBLIGATIONS**

*(Page 45-46 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

The Internal Revenue Services has estimated that ninety percent (90%) of all independent churches and most small religious associations are operating illegally concerning their tax exempt status. They feel that most violations are done through ignorance, but this does not excuse them. If they are caught, they will have to suffer the consequences. Most mistakes are made because most pastors and evangelists just don't understand the laws governing IRS status. Many well-meaning ministers and church leaders are under the assumption that "church and state" are separate. This is not so.

Church and state have never been separate and we should pray that it does not happen, if we want to have freedom of Religion.

Many churches are operating under a state charter, but this alone does not give you tax exemption. When you have your state charter, then you must go through your State Internal Revenue Service to get your state tax exemption. And then, if you want Federal Tax Exemption, you will have to have an attorney from your state to make application with the Federal Internal Revenue Service for their decision. Sometimes this takes several years and plenty of money, to get your exemption.

Under our 501 (c) (3) Letter of the Internal Revenue Code, we are allowed to give churches, schools, missions, evangelists, and other religious enterprises, legal charters making each a subordinate operating under our Tax Exempt Status.

This Corporation and Association was started on August 2, 1962, for the sole purpose of: (1 Corinthians 12:27-28) "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, HELPS, GOVERNMENTS, diversities of tongues". We are a "helps" to the ministers and churches in helping them to operate legally. We are a help to you and your church and yet we do not denominate. We keep ourselves well informed on all the issues governing the laws of the land, concerning the church and ministers.

Therefore, we are able to keep churches and ministers legal only if they will see the need and come into our Association and receive a charter from us and do the necessary requirements that the Government requires from our subordinates.

The Internal Revenue Service has given our Association the legal right to charter all areas of the ministry, including churches, missions, evangelistic, campgrounds, schools, colleges, or any other not-for-profit church related work.

(Please Note: The Church Board must have at least 5 members listed as officials of the charter. No more than two members of any one family may serve on the Board at the same time.)

The church must be pastored by a minister who has ministerial credentials with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. and said pastor must continue to be a member in good standing with this Association to be eligible to pastor an Association chartered church.

The church must be set in order with by-laws to govern the church, and having a pastor, secretary, treasurer, deacons or trustees comprising their corporate church board. Other officials/staff needed is to include a Sunday School Board, Church Youth Leader, Missionary Leader, and Women's Ministries Leader.

An accurate and legal church record must be kept at all times that can be opened for inspection by any federal or state government official.

In order for our Association to have group exemption, the chartered subordinate churches must prove that they are actually operating as an affiliate body of Association of International Gospel Assemblies, being supportive in all areas including finances, fellowship, and participation in Association activities such as being active in our youth work, women's ministries, and support to foreign and/or home missions.

All churches that are chartered by the Association are required:

1. To preach, teach, and adhere to the Articles of Faith and Doctrine of Association of International Gospel Assemblies.
2. To display the church charter, which shows affiliation with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. in a prominent place in the church.
3. To pay tithes into the general treasury of our Association each month.
4. To keep an accurate financial record and fill out a complete and accurate finance report in duplicate, with one copy to be sent to our headquarters between January 1 and April 1 each year and the remaining copy to be retained in the church files. Annual Finance Report forms will be provided by our headquarters.
5. The church is to send a representative to the state conference in their home state.
6. The churches are to participate in the fellowship meetings and youth rallies in their area.

### **MISSION CHARTERS OBLIGATIONS**

*(Page 47-48 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

The Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. will issue Mission Charters to missions as a subordinate of this association. The Internal Revenue Service considers that a mission differs from a church as it is a place where most of the income for support is derived from outside sources, and as such it can be chartered as a mission.

Please note: the Mission Charter Board must have at least 5 members listed as officials of the charter. No more than two members of any one family may serve on the Board at the same time.

The mission director/pastor must be a minister who is licensed or ordained by Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. and said minister, or his successor, must be a member in good standing with this Association to hold a valid charter.

The mission must be set in order with by-laws to govern its operation, and having a director or pastor, secretary, treasurer, and trustees comprising the corporate board of the mission. The by-laws of the mission may in no way conflict with the Constitution and By-laws of Association of International Gospel Assemblies as now or hereafter are duly adopted.

An accurate and legal record of income and expenditures must be kept at all times that can be opened for inspection by any federal or state government official.

In order for our Association to have group exemption, the chartered subordinate mission must prove that they are actually operating as an affiliate body of Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc., being supportive in all areas including finances, fellowship, and participation in Association activities such as being active in our youth work, women's ministries, and support for missions.

All missions that are chartered by the Association are required:

1. To preach, teach, and adhere to the Association's Articles of Faith and Doctrine.
2. To display the mission charter, which shows affiliation with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc., in a prominent place at the mission.
3. To pay an annual fee of one hundred (\$200.00) dollars, coming due January 1 each year, with such annual contribution requirements being subject to change as deemed necessary by the Association Corporation Board.

A small, beginning church is generally classed as a mission. It has been suggested that a mission church should attain church status within two years after it's beginning. Some do not. When a mission church has an income of at least \$25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand dollars) consistently for at least two years, they are to upgrade to a church charter.

4. To keep an accurate financial record and fill out a complete and accurate finance report in duplicate, with one copy to be sent to our headquarters between January 1 and April 1 each year and the remaining copy to be retained in the mission's files. Annual Finance Report forms will be provided by our headquarters.
5. The mission is to send a representative to the state conference in their home state.
6. All missions are to participate in the fellowship meetings and youth rallies in their area.

#### **EVANGELISTIC CHARTER OBLIGATIONS**

*(Page 48 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

The evangelist who is director of an affiliated ministry must hold ministerial credentials with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. and said evangelist or his/her successor, must remain a member in good standing with this Asso-

Please note: the Evangelistic Ministries Board must have at least 5 members listed as officials of the charter. No more than two members of any one family may serve on the Board at the same time.

ciation in order for an evangelistic charter to be valid.

The evangelistic ministry must be set in order with by-laws to govern its operations and having an evangelist/director, secretary, treasurer, and trustees comprising the corporate board of the ministry. The by-laws of said subordinate ministry may in no way conflict with the Constitution and By-laws of Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. as now or hereafter are duly adopted.

An accurate and legal record of all income and expenditures must be kept at all times that can be opened for inspection by any federal or state government official.

In order for our Association to have group exemption, the chartered subordinate must show proof that they are actually operating as an affiliate body of Association of International Gospel Assemblies, being supportive in all areas including finances, fellowship, and participation in Association activities.

All evangelistic ministries that are chartered by the Association are required:

1. To preach, teach, and adhere to the Association's Articles of Faith and Doctrine.
2. To openly hold out to the public their affiliation with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc.
3. To pay an annual fee of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars each year becoming due January 1, with such annual contribution requirements being subject to change as deemed necessary by the Association's Corporate Board of Directors.
4. To keep an accurate financial record and fill out a complete and accurate finance report in duplicate, with one copy to be sent to our headquarters between January 1 and April 1 each year and the remaining copy to be retained in the ministries' files. Annual Finance Report forms will be provided by our headquarters.
5. The ministry is to send a representative to the state conference in their home state.

#### **CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CHARTER OBLIGATIONS**

*(Pages 49-50 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

Education Charters can be issued to Christian Schools anywhere in the United States, recognizing the school as a subordinate of the Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc. and protected under our tax exempt status.

The Bible or Christian school director must hold ministerial credentials with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc., and said minister and his successor must be a member in good standing with this Association to hold a valid charter.

Please note: the Christian School Charter Board must have at least 5 members listed as officials of the charter. No more than two members of any one family may serve on the Board at the same time.

The Bible or Christian school must be set in order with by-laws to govern its operation, and having a director, secretary, treasurer, and trustees comprising the corporate board of the school. The by-laws of the school may in no way conflict with the Constitution and By-laws of Association of International Gospel Assemblies as now or hereafter are duly adopted.

An accurate and legal record of income and expenditures must be kept at all times that can be opened for inspection by any federal or state government official.

The Bible school shall operate in compliance with all federal, state, and/or municipal codes and laws.

In order for our Association to have group exemption, the chartered subordinate Bible School must prove that it is actually operating as an affiliate body of Association of International Gospel Assemblies, being supportive in all areas including finances, fellowship, and participation in Association activities such as being active in our youth work, women's ministries, and support for missions.

All Bible Schools that are chartered by the Association are required:

1. To preach, teach, and adhere to the Association's Articles of Faith and Doctrine.
2. To display the school charter, which shows affiliation with Association of International Gospel Assemblies, Inc., in a prominent place at the school.
3. To pay an annual fee of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars, coming due January 1, with such annual contribution requirements being subject to change as deemed necessary by the Association's Corporate Board.
4. To keep an accurate financial record and fill out a complete and accurate finance report in duplicate, with one copy to be sent to our headquarters between January 1 and April 1 each year and the remaining copy to be retained in the school's files. Annual Finance Report forms will be provided by our headquarters.
5. The school is to send a representative to the state conference in their home state.
6. All schools are to participate in the fellowship meetings and youth rallies in their area.

Each school should check with the Secretary of State concerning how to apply for state exemption and information about other laws that may affect a Bible school in the state. Also, it is suggested that the Bible School will check with the State Board of Education to be sure they are in compliance with the educational codes of the state.

Also, it is suggested that the Bible School will check with the State Board of Education to be sure they are in compliance with the educational codes of the state.

### **REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO ALL CHARTERS**

*(Pages 52-53 in original AIGA Constitution and Bylaws)*

Each subordinate church or ministry must have its own employer identification number. The Association will submit, with the exemption application, a completed form SS-4 on behalf of each subordinate not having said number. When the subordinate receives an employer identification number, a copy of the number must be sent to our headquarters for the chartered subordinate's record file.

State exemption is to be obtained by the subordinate church or ministry. Each subordinate should check with the Secretary of State concerning how to apply for state exemption and information about other laws that may affect a church-related organization in their state.

Filing of all forms, returns, and/or reports that may be required for compliance with Internal Revenue Service requirements shall be the obligation of the subordinate church or ministry, and the subordinate shall hold Association of International Gospel Assemblies harmless from any expense or penalties that may be sustained by reason of the negligence of the subordinate to comply.

It is not compulsory that our pastors or ministers have one of our charters, but they may find it necessary for exemption coverage and other benefits provided by such exemption.

Having a charter does not mean that the Association of International Gospel Assemblies claims right to ownership of the property of a chartered church or ministry.

The object and purpose of all subordinate churches or ministries shall be "to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Old and New Testament Scriptures, to practice and promote the Christian religion according to the

Gospel of the New Testament Scriptures; to convert persons to the Christian Religion," as stated in the Articles of Incorporation of Association of International Gospel Assemblies. Our affiliated churches and ministries must take care not to use their subordinate status for unrelated business nor are they to engage themselves in activities that are not in furtherance of the exempt purposes. Neither are they, as a chartered church-related organization, to become involved in activities to influence legislation.

If a subordinate ministry or church decides that they no longer wish to have a charter and affiliation with this Association, or if the church or church-related ministry is dissolved, said church or ministry is required by law to immediately return the Charter to our headquarters. This Association shall then be required by law to report to the Internal Revenue Service that said church or church-related ministry no longer holds a subordinate charter.

VERY IMPORTANT: Subordinate charters of this Association are not authorized by said charter to legally ordain ministers or to issue ministerial credentials or charter certificates of any kind anywhere. This includes Ordination, License, Exhorter credentials, Christian Worker credentials, and charters to cover any kind of church or ministry.

The bylaws of the Church or Ministry may in no way conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of Association of International Gospel Assemblies as now or hereafter are duly adopted. The Doctrine of Faith of said subordinate chartered Church or Ministry must be in agreement with Association of International Gospel Assemblies' Doctrine of Faith.

If a church or church-related organization is dissolved, the assets of the church or organization, after debts are paid, must go to another tax exempt church or other organization(s), organized and operated for similar exempt purposes and which have exemption from Federal income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or such section as it may be amended.

*Note: We have been advised that churches can be exempt by statute.*