

Bylaw changes and explanations.

Amendment 1 - Recognize in our bylaws the new name of our church. Due to IRS rules and our non-profit status, we opted for a dba. This amendment recognizes that change.

BYLAWS OF

WORLDS APART MINISTRIES ASSEMBLY OF GOD

DbA The Bridge Church

Amended this 21 day February, 2019

Preamble

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

Amendment 2 - The original bylaws did not have the Secretary as a member of the Board and we are recommending going back to the original bylaws with this change. There is no reason for the Church Secretary to be on the Board in the bylaws. This Admendment also increases the at-large Board members to three (3) which keeps the Board at five (5) members and also allows for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer to be held by one person.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Church Board

A. In General

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board which shall consist of the pastor, ~~the secretary~~, the treasurer and ~~two~~ three at-large members, which may be deacons, to the extent that such authority is not limited by district supervision as provided for under the bylaws of the District Council.

B. Qualifications

(1) *Pastor*

The pastor shall be in good standing with both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the District Council, holding a current fellowship card.

(2) *Secretary*

The secretary shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office. ~~and shall be a member of the church board.~~

(3) *Treasurer*

The treasurer shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

(4) ~~The offices of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by one person.~~

Amendment 3 - This amendment will extend the same rule to our current Pastor that was applied to the 1st Pastor. There are rules in place to remove the Pastor within our bylaws. The Assemblies of God General Counsel recommends an indefinite term.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Elections

A. Pastor - ~~As founder and church planter,~~ Once elected, the Senior Pastor's term will be indefinite, see (2) below, unless removed by the membership in a Special Meeting. See Section 3. Special Business Meetings

(1) Succeeding Pastors shall be nominated by the church board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.

(2) The pastor shall be elected to serve for 1 or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election.

(3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.

(4) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Where a pastor succeeds himself, only a majority vote is necessary.

(5) In the event either the pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the District Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

Amendment 4 - This amendment will align our bylaws with the South Texas District Assemblies of God bylaws and provide some protection in case of any future lawsuits concerning this subject.

Article XIV - Standards Of Marriage And Sexuality

Section 1.

We believe that the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

Section 2.

We believe that Scripture commands that there be no intimate sexual activity outside of marriage. We, also, believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 26:8-10; Heb. 13:4; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8)

Section 3.

To hold a leadership or Board position with The Bridge Church, a person must be in agreement with Article XIV and shall not engage in any of the disapproved behaviors outlined in Article XIV, Section 2.