

Assemblies Of God

Constitution

*As adopted at the 2014
General Council Conference*



Assemblies of God Constitutional Minutes

Preamble

This Constitution was written with the clear understanding that any organisation serious about a multi-generational impact must pay attention to its proper governance. It is however our desire that it should be used as an instrument to serve our vision and support our commitment to mission and not to become our master.

Mission Statement

The purpose of Assemblies of God (AoG) is to give every man, woman and child the opportunity of understanding the gospel and to provide a church where they can grow and develop in ministry for the glory of God.

Defined Terms

In this Constitution:-

'Affiliate Organisation' means any organisation that AOG Inc has given affiliated status to pursuant to Clause 5.4

'AoG' means Assemblies of God being the fellowship of churches recognised and granted Status by AOG Inc

'AOG Inc' means Assemblies of God Incorporated (company number 2873415 and charity number 1032245)

'AOG Minister' means a person who has been granted AOG Ministerial Status by AOG Inc

'AOG Ministerial Status' means status granted by AOG Inc in accordance with clauses 6.2.1 to 6.2.3

'AOG Missionary' means a person who has been granted AOG Missionary Status by AOG Inc

'AOG Missionary Status' means status granted by AOG Inc in accordance with clauses 6.2.5 to 6.2.7

'Appeals Panel' means the panel established by AOG Inc pursuant to the Articles and regulated in accordance with the Bye-Laws

'Application' means the process detailed in the Bye-Laws by which any person or local assembly shall seek Status with AOG Inc

'Area' means such geographical divisions within Great Britain in which AOG Inc operates (the extent of which are defined from time to time in the Bye-Laws) each of which requires specific representation on the BoD and the functions of which shall be prescribed by the Bye-Laws

'Area Leader' means such members of the General Council, who, having been nominated by the National Leader to represent an Area, have been confirmed by General Council

'Area Leadership Team' or 'ALT' means a committee of individuals appointed from time to time by an Area Leader (with the endorsement of the National Leadership Team and in certain circumstances in consultation with appropriate directors and officers of AOG Inc) to assist with the running and administration of an Area. The Area Leadership Team shall be led by the Area Leader and regulated in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

'Articles' means the Articles of Association of AOG Inc as amended from time to time

'Assistant' means the assistant to the National Leader as defined in the Articles

'Associate Minister' means a person who has been granted Associate Ministerial Status by AOG Inc

pursuant to clause 6.2.3

'Associate Missionary' means a person who has been granted Associate Missionary Status by AOG Inc pursuant to clause 6.2.7

'Authorised Representative Status' means those persons authorised by General Council at General Council Conference

'BoD' means the Board of Directors of AOG Inc from time to time

'Bye-Laws' means the Bye-Laws to the Articles as amended from time to time

'Chairman of General Council Conference' means the member of General Council appointed by the NLT to chair the General Council Conference.

'Church Representative' means a person who has been granted Church Representative Status by AOG Inc pursuant to clause 6.2.4

'Church Status' means such status granted to independent churches by AOG Inc pursuant to Clause 5.1

'Constitution' means this constitution which governs AOG as amended from time to time by the General Council

'Co-Opted Director' means such persons who are selected by the NLT to sit on the BoD for their specific skills, roles and term (subject to ratification of their selection only by the General Council) all of whom shall be deemed credited with Authorised Representative Status by virtue of their ratification if they do not already have AOG Ministerial Status

'Final Agenda' means the agenda prepared by the NLT for the General Council Conference which shall be circulated to all members of the General Council at least 28 days before the date of the General Council Conference

'General Council' means the general council of AOG being those individuals granted Status in accordance with clause 6.2

'General Council Conference' means the annual meeting of the General Council details of which are set out at clause 7

'Local Assembly' means an independent church which has been granted Church Status pursuant to clause 5.1

'Memorandum of Understanding' means the memorandum of understanding document made between Elim Trust Corporation and AOG Inc, as amended from time to time

'Minister' means a person who has been granted Ministerial Status by AOG Inc pursuant to clause 6.2.2

'Ministerial List' means the list maintained by AOG Inc denoting the relevant Status of persons holding AOG Ministerial Status from time to time

'Missionary' means a person who has been granted Missionary Status by AOG Inc pursuant to clause 6.2.6

'Missionary List' means the list maintained by AOG Inc recording all individuals who hold AOG Missionary Status from time to time

'National Leader' means the person for the time being appointed to the office of National Leader of AOG

'National Ministries' means such departments of work carried out by the NLT as the BoD may from time to time decide

'National Training Programme' means the national programme of training activity as agreed by the NLT

from time to time and overseen by the Training Leader

'NLT' means the National Leadership Team of AOG Inc as defined in the Articles from time to time

'Observer' means an individual appointed in accordance with clause 9.2 who is able to attend meetings of the General Council but may not speak or vote on matters being discussed

'Partnership' means the requirements of those with Status to partner with AOG Inc as set out in the Bye-Laws

'Pioneer Work' means a church plant less than two years old with less than 50 members that is fully accountable to a Local Assembly, Area Leadership Team or the National Leadership Team

'Primary Leader' means a person who is functioning as a main point of contact with key responsibility for the leadership, vision and direction of the Local Assembly or organisation

'Registration' means the requirements as set out in the Bye-Laws for provision of information from those holding Status

'Regulated Activities' means the management and provision of regular activities and opportunities that have the potential to include work and contact with children and vulnerable adults.

'Special Measures' means the measures for dealing with Local Assemblies that fall within clause 5.2.2, as set out in the Bye-Laws from time to time

'Statement of Faith' means the statement of faith of AoG as amended from time to time

'Status' means Church Status, AOG Ministerial Status, AOG Missionary Status or Church Representative Status

'Training' means the training that individuals and organisations shall be required to undertake by AOG Inc as a result of their Application

'Training Leader' means the person appointed to such office pursuant to the Articles.

'Trainee Minister' means a person who has been granted Trainee Ministerial Status by AOG Inc pursuant to clause 6.2.1

'Trainee Missionary' means a person who has been granted Trainee Missionary Status by AOG Inc pursuant to clause 6.2.5

Introduction

AoG is a part of the world-wide Pentecostal Movement which now forms one of the largest sections of the Christian Church with several hundred million adherents. The rapid growth of the Pentecostal Movement is largely attributable to the emphasis it places on the need for the miraculous, life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit to be at work in the Church and in the world today and this is reflected not only in our doctrinal statements but in the life and practice of our churches.

There are AoG fellowships in most countries of the world and, although each national fellowship is independent, having its own constitution and doctrinal statement, there is a warm co-operation between us, as there is with the Pentecostal Movement as a whole and with all Christians everywhere who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and seek to proclaim the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Background

During the early years of the twentieth century sincere Christians in many sections of the Church were praying for a deep and widespread revival. As a result of their prayers the Holy Spirit began to be poured out in a remarkable way and supernatural manifestations similar to those recorded in the New Testament began to take place. These things happened simultaneously and spontaneously in various parts of the

world. There was no thought of forming a new denomination, but in those days the new move of the Spirit was largely opposed by the traditional churches and early 'Pentecostals' were compelled to form their own fellowships and churches. This gave rise to the birth of the world-wide Pentecostal Movement and it is noteworthy that today many within the churches who once opposed the testimony are now themselves enjoying a new freedom in the Spirit.

In Britain the fellowship known as Assemblies of God in Great Britain and Ireland was formed in 1924. The doctrinal statement which differed very little from that of today reflected an intense loyalty to the fundamentals of Christian doctrine held by evangelical believers and stressed in addition the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the Scriptural initial evidence of speaking in tongues. AoG is thus an evangelical fellowship which places a distinct emphasis on the need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our witness, work and worship.

In 1993, the AoG was incorporated, at which time the Executive Council became the Directors and sole members of the Company known as Assemblies of God Inc; registered with Companies House, Company Number 02873415.

1 Statement of Faith

(As amended by the 2004 General Council)

This Statement of Faith is not intended as a creed for the Church, but as a basis of unity for AoG Ministers and Churches (1 Cor 1:10).

- 1.1. **We believe** that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments excluding the Apocrypha), is the inspired Word of God, the infallible, all sufficient rule for faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Peter 1:21).
- 1.2. **We believe** in the unity of the One True and Living God who is the Eternal, Self-Existent "I AM", who has also revealed Himself as One Being co-existing in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Matt 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).
- 1.3. **We believe** in the Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Miraculous Ministry, Substitutionary Atoning Death, Bodily Resurrection, Triumphant Ascension and Abiding Intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His personal, visible, Bodily return in power and glory as the blessed hope of all believers. (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 2:22; Acts 2:22, 10:38; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:12; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4; Acts 1:9; Eph. 4:8-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 Cor. 15:22-24, 51-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:1-6).
- 1.4. **We believe** in the fall of man, who was created pure and upright, but fell by voluntary transgression (Gen. 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21).
- 1.5. **We believe** in salvation through faith in Christ, who, according to the Scriptures, died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the dead on the third day, and that through His blood we have redemption (Titus 2:11, 3:5-7; Rom. 10:8-15; 1 Cor. 15:3-4). This experience is also known as the new birth, and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit upon initial faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 3:5-6; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 5:1).
- 1.6. **We believe** that all who have truly repented and believed in Christ as Lord and Saviour are commanded to be baptised by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 2:38-39).
- 1.7. **We believe** in the baptism in the Holy Spirit as an enduement of the believer with power for service, the essential biblical evidence of which is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 1:4-5, 8, 2:4, 10:44-46, 11:14-16, 19:6).
- 1.8. **We believe** in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Christ in the Church today (1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-16).
- 1.9. **We believe** in holiness of life and conduct in obedience to the command of God (1 Pet. 1:14-16; Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 2:6).
- 1.10. **We believe** that deliverance from sickness, by Divine Healing is provided for in the Atonement. (Isa. 53:4-5, Matt. 8:16-17, James 5:13-16).
- 1.11. **We believe** that all who have truly repented and believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour should regularly participate in Breaking of Bread (Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-34).
- 1.12. **We believe** in the Bodily resurrection of all men, the everlasting conscious bliss of all who truly believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and the everlasting conscious punishment of all whose names are not written in the Book of Life (Dan. 12:2-3; John 5:28-29, 1 Cor. 15:22-24; Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:10-15).

2. AOG Inc and its Relationship with AoG

- 2.1. AOG Inc carries out the day to day administration for and on behalf of AoG and the General Council so as to afford protection to AoG and the General Council from any personal liability for actions undertaken by AoG.
- 2.2. On adoption of this revised Constitution the General Council and BoD recognise that:-
 - 2.2.1. AOG Inc shall carry out all administrative functions of AoG which include (without limitation):-
 - 2.2.1.1. Admission to AoG, including the granting and removal of Church Status
 - 2.2.1.2. Admission to Ministerial and Missionary Lists, including the granting and removal of AOG Ministerial Status and AOG Missionary Status
 - 2.2.1.3. All disciplinary matters
 - 2.2.1.4. The Appeals Panel
 - 2.2.1.5. Special Measures
 - 2.2.2. This Constitution sets out the full extent of matters on which the General Council may vote on at the General Council Conference.

3. Structure of AOG Inc

- 3.1. AOG Inc is an incorporated charity registered under Articles of Association which, together with the Bye-Laws, govern its administration.
- 3.2. The BoD shall comprise:-
 - 3.2.1. The National Leader
 - 3.2.2. The Area Leaders
 - 3.2.3. The Training Leader
 - 3.2.4. The Assistant
 - 3.2.5. The Co-Opted Directorstogether with such other individuals as set out in the Articles.
- 3.3. The NLT (who are also the members of AOG Inc) comprise:-
 - 3.3.1. The National Leader
 - 3.3.2. The Area Leaders
 - 3.3.3. The Training Leader
 - 3.3.4. The Assistanttogether with such other individuals as set out in the Articles.

- 3.4. The National Leader, Area Leaders, Training Leader, Assistant and Co-Opted Directors shall be appointed in accordance the procedures set out in the Articles.

4. Operation of AOG Inc

- 4.1. In accordance with the provisions set out in the Articles and the Bye-Laws AOG Inc shall operate through:-
 - 4.1.1. Areas under the leadership of the Area Leaders
 - 4.1.2. National Ministries under the leadership of the NLT
- 4.2. Each Area may operate Area Ministries in accordance with the provisions set out in the Articles and Bye-Laws

5. Assembly List

- 5.1. Local Assemblies
 - 5.1.1. All groups of Christians who are in agreement with and willing to abide by this Constitution and who wish to hold Status with AoG shall make application to the appropriate Area Leadership Team for Church Status, having first met in a properly constituted meeting and formally resolved to do so.
 - 5.1.2. Every Local Assembly shall be free to conduct all its congregational affairs without the infringing of its rightful privileges by AoG or AOG Inc, except in matters specified in this Constitution.
 - 5.1.3. A Local Assembly must ensure that if its Primary Leader does not have AOG Ministerial Status he/she shall apply for appropriate Status. Failure to comply will lead to remedial action with discipline of the Local Assembly.
 - 5.1.4. It is a requirement of Church Status (Provisional and Full) that all Local Assemblies will contribute annually a percentage (agreed from time to time by AOG Inc and ratified by the General Council at the General Council Conference) of their General Income towards the administrative expenses and activity of AOG Inc.
In this context:-
 - 5.1.4.1. 'General Income' is defined as all income (i.e. no deduction of expenses) that is accounted for in the Local Assembly, excluding Restricted Income but including Designated Income.
 - 5.1.4.2. 'Restricted Income' is defined as income for which the giver requires a specific use or purpose (i.e. restricted use) as a condition of their giving; excluding the general running costs and activity of the Local Assembly.
 - 5.1.4.3. 'Designated Income' is defined as unrestricted income subsequently set aside for a specific purpose (i.e. designated use).

This means that in this context General Income includes: tithes and offerings; gift aid tax refunds; and, any donation or legacy given without any specific use or purpose being indicated by the giver at the time of giving.

5.2. Assembly Disenfranchisement

- 5.2.1. An Area Leadership Team may review the Church Status of Local Assemblies that have consistently not been represented at an activity or event organised by its Area without good and sufficient reason.
- 5.2.2. If the regular attendance of a Local Assembly remains below 20 for a period of one year, it shall come under the Special Measures operated by AOG Inc through the appropriate Area Leadership Team. The need for this shall be reviewed annually. If a Local Assembly refuses to accept this process it shall cease to hold Status.
- 5.2.3. If the regular attendance of a Local Assembly remains below 12 for one year then it shall be regarded as a Provisional Assembly.
- 5.2.4. No Local Assembly holding full Church Status with AoG shall hold similar status with another organisation unless it has been accorded dual status.

5.3. Dual Status Churches

- 5.3.1. A Local Assembly, having full Church Status, which merges with a local church holding similar status with the Elim Pentecostal Church, and wishing to remain in AoG, shall be accorded dual status upon notification to its Area Leader, subject to compliance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding drawn up between the two bodies, thereby retaining the full Constitutional rights and responsibilities of its former status.
- 5.3.2. A Minister, having Ministerial Status, taking the primary leadership of a dual status Local Assembly, and wishing to remain in AoG, shall retain that status upon notification to the appropriate Area Leader subject to compliance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding drawn up between the two bodies. The retention of Church Status is dependent upon continuing in fellowship with a Local Assembly or dual status church (see Clause 5.1.4).
- 5.3.3. A dual status Local Assembly must ensure that its Primary Leader has been granted Ministerial Status by AOG Inc or equivalent status with the Elim Pentecostal Church. Failure to comply will lead to discipline for the Local Assembly.
- 5.3.4. In cases where the Primary Leader of a dual status Local Assembly holds status with the Elim Pentecostal Church, they must fulfil all the necessary Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements for such equivalent Status as may be determined by the appropriate ALT.

5.4. Assemblies of God Affiliations

- 5.4.1. Organisations wishing to affiliate themselves with AoG may apply to do so through AOG Inc who shall regulate such relationship as it deems fit.
- 5.4.2. The leaders of Affiliate Organisations may attend Area and General Council meetings (without voting power).

6. Ministerial and Missionary List

The Bye-Laws set out the guiding principles used in the selection of AOG Ministers.

6.1. Status

- 6.1.1. Applications for AOG Ministerial Status and Church Representative Status shall be made to the appropriate Area Leadership Team.
- 6.1.2. Applications for AOG Missionary Status should be made to AOG Inc.
- 6.1.3. The leader of a Pioneer Work may apply to the appropriate Area Leadership Team for the appropriate AOG Ministerial Status.
- 6.1.4. All those holding Status shall:
 - 6.1.4.1. accept and believe the Statement of Faith.
 - 6.1.4.2. attend a Local Assembly, unless approval for non-attendance of a Local Assembly is granted by the appropriate Area Leadership Team or, in exceptional circumstances, the National Leadership Team
 - 6.1.4.3. pay an annual subscription (as agreed from time to time by AOG Inc).
 - 6.1.4.4. actively support the work of the appropriate Area Leadership Team (see clause 6.4.1).

6.2. Classification of Status

For the purpose of clarification the following definitions have been adopted to describe Status:

6.2.1. Trainee Ministerial Status

- 6.2.1.1. Trainee Ministerial Status has voting power and is granted by AOG Inc to a person:-
 - 6.2.1.1.1. who has evidenced ministry activity with a Local Assembly (or with an ALT or with the NLT);
 - 6.2.1.1.2. who has been approved by the appropriate Area Leadership Team;
 - 6.2.1.1.3. who is actively undertaking the National Training Programme including all the appropriate Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements; and
 - 6.2.1.1.4. whose name has been officially endorsed before being accredited as a Minister.
- 6.2.1.2. Endorsement of a Trainee Minister is required from the person's Local Assembly, or, in exceptional circumstances, the Area Leadership Team or National Leadership Team.

6.2.2. Ministerial Status

- 6.2.2.1. Ministerial Status has voting power and is granted by AOG Inc to a person who:-

- 6.2.2.1.1. is commissioned by AOG Inc to build Spirit-filled, Bible-based, missional churches or organisations;
 - 6.2.2.1.2. is able to evidence primary responsibility for the clear communication of the Gospel, the provision of appropriate pastoral care and the establishment of a sound biblical framework for Christian discipleship;
 - 6.2.2.1.3. is a Primary Leader, or is undertaking a primary spiritual leadership function, with vision, direction and team leadership for their respective church or ministry; and
 - 6.2.2.1.4. has completed the National Training Programme and fulfilled all the necessary Application, Minister Training, Partnership and Registration requirements
- 6.2.2.2. AOG Inc may, at its discretion, choose to grant Ministerial Status to an individual who is not a Primary Leader but is undertaking a senior role with oversight responsibility or an itinerant ministry.

6.2.3. Associate Ministerial Status

- 6.2.3.1. Associate Ministerial Status has voting power and is granted by AOG Inc to a person who:-
 - 6.2.3.1.1. has been officially commissioned by AOG Inc having fulfilled all the necessary Application, Associate Minister Training, Partnership and Registration requirements; and
 - 6.2.3.1.2. has been officially commissioned by AOG Inc; and
 - 6.2.3.1.3. is undertaking ministerial activity
and is either:-
 - 6.2.3.1.4. a non-primary leader of a Local Assembly who is in a supportive leadership role (such as elder or assistant leader) and who fulfils all the requirements for Ministerial Status (as set out in this Constitution and the Bye-Laws); or
 - 6.2.3.1.5. a recognised serving chaplain performing a spiritual function within a secular organisation (such as a hospital, prison, military unit, police force, school, university or any other relevant establishment), and who remains fully accountable to their Local Assembly, appropriate Area Leadership Team or the National Leadership Team and who fulfils all the requirements for Ministerial Status (as set out in this Constitution and Bye-Laws), or
 - 6.2.3.1.6. a minister serving AoG at a national or Area level who is not able to attend a Local Assembly for geographical or other reasons approved by the relevant Area Leadership Team; or

6.2.3.1.7. an executive member of an Affiliate Organisation who attends a Local Assembly (unless clause 6.2.3.1.6 is applicable) and is endorsed by the appropriate Area Leadership Team or the National Leadership Team.

6.2.3.2. Associate Ministerial Status will be reviewed every two years by the appropriate Area Leadership Team or the National Leadership Team.

6.2.4. Church Representative Status

6.2.4.1. Church Representative Status is granted by AOG Inc to a person who:-

6.2.4.1.1. has been appointed as the Primary Leader of a Local Assembly but who has not yet applied for AOG Ministerial Status (without voting power); or

6.2.4.1.2. is nominated to deputise for the Primary Leader and represent the Local Assembly at Area meetings or General Council meetings when that Primary Leader is unable to attend (with voting power); or

6.2.4.1.3. is nominated to represent the Local Assembly at Area meetings or General Council meetings when a Local Assembly is temporarily without a Primary Leader (without voting power).

6.2.4.2. The Church Representative must have prior endorsement from the appropriate Area Leadership Team.

6.2.4.3. Church Representative Status will be reviewed every two years by the appropriate Area Leadership Team.

6.2.5. Trainee Missionary Status

6.2.5.1. Trainee Missionary Status is without voting power and is granted by AOG Inc to a person:-

6.2.5.1.1. who is in their first active period of AOG Inc endorsed overseas ministry;

6.2.5.1.2. who has applied to AOG Inc to undertake a period of Training and review; and

6.2.5.1.3. whose name has been officially endorsed before being commissioned as an AOG Missionary.

6.2.5.2. The granting of Trainee Missionary Status usually precedes the AOG Inc decision to award an appropriate Status.

6.2.6. Missionary Status

6.2.6.1. Missionary Status has voting power and is granted by AOG Inc to a person who has:-

6.2.6.1.1. completed all missionary selection, Training and review processes with AOG Inc; and

6.2.6.1.2. provided proof of a missionary ministry.

6.2.6.2. A Missionary is entitled to attend Area and General Council meetings.

6.2.7. Associate Missionary Status

6.2.7.1. Associate Missionary Status is without voting power and may be granted after a period of Training and review at the discretion of AOG Inc to a person who:-

6.2.7.1.1. works primarily with another Christian group or mission organisation but also has close ties with AoG (GB) and wishes to retain an AoG identity (e.g. members of a Local Assembly); or

6.2.7.1.2. ministers in their country of domicile or another nation and has a relationship with a Missionary, an ALT or an NLT member, where there is no other viable option to gain similar ministerial or missionary status; or

6.2.7.1.3. is a spouse who accompanies a Missionary on the mission field and supports their ministry but is not engaged personally in full time ministry.

6.2.7.2. An Associate Missionary is entitled to attend Area and General Council meetings as an Observer.

6.3. Change of Status

6.3.1. A person having Status may apply to the appropriate Area Leadership Team for a change of Status. The person must fulfil all the necessary Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements that are required for the applied for Status.

6.3.2. The ALT may review the Status of any AOG Minister whenever necessary, in order to ensure the correct ministerial criteria applies and that they are continuing to fulfil the necessary Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements required for their designated Status.

6.3.3. Any person requesting transferral of Status from a corresponding denomination must fulfil all the necessary Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements that are required for the Status which they are applying for.

6.4. Disenfranchisement

6.4.1. An Area Leadership Team may review the Status of an individual who does not comply with all the Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements for their designated Status (or such other requirements as set out in the Constitution and Bye-Laws) and who consistently does not attend activities or events organised by the Area or the General Council Conference without good and sufficient reason.

6.4.2. Save for those persons who are currently serving members of the NLT, the retention of Status is dependent upon continuing to attend a Local Assembly, remaining active in leadership ministry and fulfilling all the necessary Application, Training, Partnership and Registration requirements required for their designated Status.

- 6.4.3. Save for those persons who are currently serving members of the NLT, any person with Status who for a period of two years:-
- 6.4.3.1. Has not been Primary Leader of a Local Assembly and does not meet Associate Ministerial Status requirements; or
 - 6.4.3.2. Is in charge of a Local Assembly that has reverted to Provisional status; or
 - 6.4.3.3. Is no longer able to evidence substantial ministry activity or has retired from ministry
- shall cease to hold Status.
- 6.4.4. No person holding Status with AoG shall hold similar status with another organisation without the permission of AOG Inc.

6.5. Retirement of Ministers and Missionaries

6.5.1. **Retired Ministers:**

- 6.5.1.1. Where an AOG Minister still fulfils the necessary Application, Training, Partnership, Registration and constitutional requirements of AOG Ministerial Status there is no requirement for retirement and they will retain their Status.
- 6.5.1.2. An AOG Minister who retires from a full and active ministry role (or who is no longer capable of employment as a minister or of functioning as a minister) shall inform the appropriate Area Leadership Team of their retirement from Status.
- 6.5.1.3. A Retired Minister is without voting power and is not required to pay an annual subscription.

6.5.2. **Retired Missionaries**

- 6.5.2.1. Where a AOG Missionary still fulfils the necessary Application, Training, Partnership, Registration and constitutional requirement of a continuing ministry they shall retain the appropriate Status.
- 6.5.2.2. An AOG Missionary who, having chosen to retire (or who is no longer capable of carrying out missionary work or of functioning as an AOG Missionary) ceases active missionary work, shall apply to AOG Inc for a change of Status.
- 6.5.2.3. A Retired Missionary is without voting power.
- 6.5.2.4. Where a person with Missionary Status or Associate Missionary Status wishes to transfer to an AoG (GB) ministry role, they must apply to the appropriate Area Leadership Team in accordance with clause 6.1.1

6.6. Restorative and Disciplinary Procedures

- 6.6.1. AOG Inc shall be responsible for all affairs relating to the disciplining and restoration of persons holding Status and all disciplinary procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set out in the Bye-Laws.

6.6.2. Where cases of historic misconduct are brought to light and an investigation without prejudice is required in accordance with the Bye-Laws, AOG Inc reserves the right to request the co-operation of Retired Ministers and Retired Missionaries, and shall investigate as if they are still with Status.

6.7. Regulated Activities

6.7.1. All Local Assemblies and individuals with Status will be classified as undertaking Regulated Activities.

7. Meetings of the General Council: The General Council Conference

7.1. General Matters

7.1.1. In every year AOG Inc shall call a meeting of the General Council known as the General Council Conference at a convenient place and date to be decided and shall transact such business as set out in clauses 7.2.2 to 7.2.4 below and which shall have been placed on the Final Agenda for the General Council Conference.

7.2. Notice, Final Agenda and business to be transacted at General Council Conference

7.2.1. At the close of the General Council Conference the NLT will notify the General Council of the provisional date of the next General Council Conference which shall be confirmed when the Final Agenda is issued to members of the General Council.

7.2.2. The following matters shall be put before the General Council at General Council Conference for voting on, such voting shall be carried out by ballot and decided by a majority of votes cast:-

7.2.2.1. Any amendments to the Constitution proposed by AOG Inc

7.2.2.2. Any amendments to the objects clause or dissolution provisions of the Articles proposed by AOG Inc

7.2.2.3. Any proposals for AOG Inc to merge with another organisation

7.2.2.4. Any changes to the level of annual contribution of General Income required to be made by Local Assemblies in accordance with clause 5.1.4. but in respect of this matter only one representative per Local Assembly shall be entitled to vote and individuals granted Missionary Status shall not be entitled to vote on this item.

7.2.2.5. Such other matters as the NLT may from time to time decide.

7.2.3. The following matters shall be put before the General Council at General Council Conference for confirmation such confirmation shall be carried out by ballot and decided by a minimum of a two thirds majority of votes cast:-

7.2.3.1. The appointment of the NLT's nominee as the National Leader

7.2.3.2. The appointment of any individuals nominated by the National Leader as:-

7.2.3.2.1. Area Leaders

7.2.3.2.2. Training Leader

- 7.2.3.2.3. Assistant
 - 7.2.3.2.4. The appointment (and if appropriate the granting of Authorised Representative Status) of Co-Opted Directors
 - 7.2.3.3. The removal of a member of AOG Inc
 - 7.2.4. The following matters may be put before the General Council at General Council Conference for information purposes only:-
 - 7.2.4.1. The receipt of reports from the Area Leaders
 - 7.2.4.2. The laying of the membership list of the General Council
 - 7.2.4.3. The laying of the assembly list of AoG
 - 7.2.4.4. Any amendments that have come into effect since the date of the last General Council Conference to the:-
 - 7.2.4.4.1. Structure of AOG Inc and the manner in which it operates;
 - 7.2.4.4.2. Bye-Laws; or
 - 7.2.4.4.3. Articles save for those referred to in clause 7.2.2.2 above
 - 7.2.5. Members of the General Council (through the appropriate Area Leadership Team) may request items to be placed on the Final Agenda for the General Council Conference. Any such requests shall be considered at the sole discretion of the NLT.
 - 7.2.6. The NLT shall prepare the Final Agenda for the General Council Conference which shall be sent to all members of the General Council at least 28 days before the General Council Conference convenes. The accidental omission to circulate a copy of the agenda or the non-receipt of the agenda by any person entitled to receive a copy shall not invalidate proceedings.
 - 7.2.7. The Final Agenda shall include details of the:-
 - 7.2.7.1. date, time and location of the General Council Conference;
 - 7.2.7.2. business to be transacted at the General Council Conference; and
 - 7.2.7.3. member of the General Council that has been appointed by the NLT to the role of Chairman of the General Council Conference

7.3. Proceedings at the General Council Conference

- 7.3.1. The quorum for the General Council Conference shall be all those registered and present.
- 7.3.2. Once a quorum is present the Chairman of the General Council Conference shall declare the meeting open.
- 7.3.3. No items involving changes to the Constitution shall be brought before the General Council Conference unless they have first appeared on the agenda.

- 7.3.4. Should the number of votes cast on any matter brought before the General Council Conference be less than 50% of those present then the Chairman shall declare the vote null and void.
- 7.3.5. Time spent on any item shall not exceed that allotted by the NLT and appearing on the agenda except at the discretion of the meeting.
- 7.3.6. No proposed changes in the Constitution, having been three times rejected by the General Council shall be placed on the agenda, unless, in the opinion of the National Leadership Team there are grounds for further discussion.

8. Meetings of the General Council: Special General Council Meetings

- 8.1. On the requisition of 25% of the General Council AOG Inc shall forthwith proceed to convene a Special General Council Meeting to discuss items of major significance.
- 8.2. The requisition to hold a Special General Council Meeting must:-
 - 8.2.1. Be addressed to the NLT
 - 8.2.2. Be signed by at least 25% of the General Council
 - 8.2.3. Specify the business to be transacted and any specific reasons for the calling of the Special General Council Meeting
- 8.3. Within 60 days of receiving a requisition to hold a Special General Council Meeting in accordance with clause 8.1 the NLT shall send notice of a Special General Council Meeting to all members of the General Council
- 8.4. Not less than 28 days' notice of a Special General Council Meeting must be given to all members of the General Council and such notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted at the Special General Council Meeting.
- 8.5. The accidental omission to give notice of a Special General Council Meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a Special General Council Meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that Special General Council Meeting.
- 8.6. The quorum for the Special General Council Meeting shall be all those registered and present who represent a Local Assembly.
- 8.7. Once a quorum is present the members of the General Council shall elect one of their number to preside as Chairman of the Special General Council Meeting.
- 8.8. All matters put forward at a Special General Council Meeting shall be decided by a 75% majority of votes cast by ballot.
- 8.9. Should the number of votes cast at the Special General Council Meeting be less than 50% of those present then the chairman shall declare the vote null and void.

9. Meetings of the General Council: General Matters

- 9.1. **Notices**

- 9.1.1. Any documents or notices to be given to members of the General Council in connection with either the General Council Conference or a Special General Council Meeting (including the Final Agenda) must be either:-
 - 9.1.1.1. in writing; or
 - 9.1.1.2. given by using electronic communications; or
 - 9.1.1.3. made available on the website of AOG Inc.

9.2. **Observers**

- 9.2.1. The following individuals may attend meetings of the General Council as Observers:
 - 9.2.1.1. Any person approved by the General Council, the NLT or the BoD.
 - 9.2.1.2. The spouse of any person whose status is defined in clause 6.2.
 - 9.2.1.3. Any person holding Associate Missionary Status with AOG Inc in accordance with the provisions of clause 6.2.7.

10. **Appeals Panel**

- 10.1. AOG Inc shall establish an Appeals Panel the remit of which is prescribed in the Articles and Bye-Laws.
- 10.2. Regulation of the Appeals Panel and appointment of its members shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Bye-Laws.