

SOUTH TEXAS DISTRICT AFFILIATED POLICY

1
2
3 WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution has defined the scope of the District
4 Affiliated church in terms of one in the formative status, not having yet
5 reached a position of maturity as to self-governance, AND

6 WHEREAS, There could be some ambiguity as to the term and relationship within the
7 district as to the oversight and/or involvement of district supervision, AND

8 WHEREAS, There are some current “district affiliated” churches that for all practical
9 purposes are self-governing, and have chosen not to file for full affiliation
10 with the General Council, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the South Texas District Policy concerning those churches which are
12 not General Council Affiliated churches (i.e. G.C. sovereign churches) are
13 specified within the District Policy concerning governance and relationship
14 with and to the South Texas District Council, AND be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the term DISTRICT AFFILIATED NEW WORK, will be the term used to
16 identify all churches and as described in the General Council Constitution of
17 Recognition of Assemblies as those being in the formative state as a result
18 of evangelistic work and/or church planting efforts that have not reached
19 the position of self-governance, and are in the need of guidance and
20 general supervision until such time they can move to full recognition of a
21 General Council Affiliated Assembly, or a District Affiliated Sovereign status,
22 AND be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the term DISTRICT AFFILIATED SOVEREIGN, will be the term used to
24 identify churches that may or may not meet the criteria for a General
25 Council affiliated church, but are self-governing assemblies, AND be it
26 further

1 RESOLVED, THAT the following sections be inserted into the South Texas Constitution
2 ARTICLE X. Local Assemblies, Section 3 Classifications:, paragraph a. General
3 Council Affiliated (2b) as follows: which currently reads

4 In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly should fail to
5 maintain minimum requirements or scriptural order in accordance with
6 Article XI, Section 1a of the Constitution of The Assemblies of God or with
7 this constitution and bylaws, or elects by majority vote to revert to the
8 support and control of the South Texas District Council, Inc. of the
9 Assemblies of God, then in that event, at the discretion of the District
10 Presbytery, the assembly shall revert to the status of a district affiliated
11 assembly, until such time as General Council status may be reestablished.

12 Be amended to read:

13 In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly should fail to
14 maintain minimum requirements or scriptural order in accordance with
15 Article XI, Section 1a of the Constitution of The Assemblies of God or with
16 this constitution and bylaws, or elects by majority vote to revert to the
17 support and control guidance of the South Texas District Council, Inc. of the
18 Assemblies of God, then in that event, at the discretion of the District
19 Presbytery, the assembly shall revert to the status of a district affiliated
20 sovereign assembly, until such time as General Council status may be
21 reestablished., AND be it further

22 RESOLVED, That ARTICLE X. Section 3b. District Council Affiliated: which currently
23 reads:

24 Groups which have been brought into being as a result of evangelistic
25 efforts or other means, and which are still in a formative state, shall be
26 recognized as district affiliated assemblies in accordance with Article XI,
27 Section 2 of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of

1 God. Said assemblies shall be independently incorporated bodies,
2 spiritually bonded to the South Texas District Council by the church's
3 Articles of Incorporation. They shall be under the general supervision of
4 the District Presbytery which shall provide for pastoral care until such time
5 as they give evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant recognition of
6 sovereignty. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the
7 status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

8 Be amended to read:

9 b. District Affiliated New Work:

10 Are churches and local congregations which have been brought into
11 being as the result of evangelistic or church planting efforts and are still
12 in a formative state in need of maturing. They shall be under the
13 general supervision of the District Presbytery which shall provide for
14 pastoral care, appoint the necessary officers, etc., until such time as
15 they give evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant full recognition of
16 sovereignty. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the
17 status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies, or District
18 Affiliated Sovereign status, the requirements as listed in South Texas By-
19 Laws, Article XI, Section 1a, District Affiliated New Work, AND, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a new Section ARTICLE X, Section 3, c. District Affiliated Sovereign
22 assemblies be inserted, AND renumbering the following paragraphs: to
23 read:

24 Section 3, c. District Affiliated Sovereign Assemblies:

25 Local assemblies and congregations which may or may not meet the
26 criteria for a General Council affiliated church, but are self-governing
27 assemblies and have filed for affiliation with the South Texas District

1 Council and have met the requirements as listed in South Texas By-Laws,
2 Article XI, Section 1b, Sovereign, AND be it further

3 RESOLVED, that the following sections of the South Texas By-Laws be amended as
4 follows:

5 ARTICLE III. Voting Constituency and Quorum, Section 1 which currently
6 reads:

7 The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained, licensed and certified
8 ministers, and recognized church delegates, who are present and registered
9 at district meetings. General Council and District Council affiliated
10 assemblies shall be entitled to one delegate. Parent affiliated churches and
11 Cooperating Assemblies are not entitled to a voting delegate.

12 Be Amended to read:

13 The voting constituency shall consist of all South Texas District Council
14 ordained, licensed and certified ministers, and recognized church
15 delegates, who are present and registered at district meetings. General
16 Council and District Council Sovereign assemblies shall be entitled to one
17 delegate. Parent affiliated churches and Cooperating Assemblies and
18 District Affiliated New Work are not entitled to a voting delegate. AND be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED that a New Section be added to the By-Laws as follows:

21 ARTICLE XI, Section 1 – Guidelines (New Paragraph):

22 a. District Affiliated New Work – requirements for affiliation:

23 A South Texas District affiliated new work assembly is one that has
24 applied for and has received approval to form a new work from The
25 South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God.

1 Churches desiring to be affiliated with The South Texas District Council
2 of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They
3 shall:

4 (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;

5 (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by
6 the local assembly or by agreement with the South Texas District
7 Council;

8 (3) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good
9 standing with the General Council and South Texas District Council; and

10 (4) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God
11 missions.

12
13 **b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district**
14 **councils.** A district affiliated new work assembly should cooperate in the
15 work and support the programs of the General Council and district
16 councils.

17
18 **c. Governance.** Each District Council affiliated new work assembly shall
19 be held under the general supervision of the district presbytery, which
20 shall provide assistance if needed, to appoint the necessary officers, etc.
21 until such time as the new work congregation gives evidence of
22 sufficient maturity to warrant full recognition as a District Council
23 Affiliated Sovereign assembly.

24
25 The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to
26 the guidelines of General Council Constitution By-Laws, Article XI,
27 Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

1 d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity. A South Texas district
2 affiliated new work assembly shall recognize that the district council or
3 The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve
4 scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine
5 and polity and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if
6 deemed necessary. (See Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d. of the
7 General Council Constitution.)

8
9 e. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the South Texas
10 District affiliated new work assembly may appeal to the district officers
11 for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the
12 Executive Presbytery of The South Texas District Council of the
13 Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the
14 assembly has received proper help from the district officers. An appeal
15 may be made to the District Presbytery whose decision shall be
16 considered final. And be it further

17
18 RESOLVED, that a New Section be added to the By-Laws as follows:

19 ARTICLE XI, Section 1 – Guidelines (New Paragraph):

20 b. District Affiliated Sovereign – requirements for affiliation:

21 A South Texas Council affiliated sovereign assembly is one that has
22 applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The South
23 Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God.

24
25 Churches desiring to be affiliated with The South Texas District Council
26 of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They
27 shall:

- 1 (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- 2 (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by
- 3 the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
- 4 (3) Have an active voting membership who shall accept responsibility to
- 5 maintain scriptural order in the local body, and has demonstrated the
- 6 capacity for self-governance;
- 7 (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible
- 8 with models recommended by the district council, or district approved
- 9 governance models that provide for adequate accountability,
- 10 amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body
- 11 cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- 12 (5) Provide an adequate number of spiritually qualified individuals to fill
- 13 the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- 14 (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good
- 15 standing with the General Council and The South Texas District Council;
- 16 and
- 17 (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God
- 18 missions.

19

20 **b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district**

21 **councils.** A district affiliated sovereign assembly should cooperate in the

22 work and support the programs of the General Council and district

23 council and may send a delegate to the district councils.

24

25 **c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights).** Each District Council

26 affiliated sovereign assembly has the right of self-government under

27 Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call

1 its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business
2 pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer
3 discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution
4 or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property,
5 either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.
6 The fact it is affiliated with The South Texas District Council of the
7 Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or
8 interfere with its sovereignty.

9
10 The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to
11 the guidelines of the General Council Constitution By-Laws, Article XI,
12 Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

13
14 **d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity.** A South Texas district
15 affiliated sovereign assembly shall recognize that the South Texas
16 District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the
17 right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove
18 unscriptural doctrine and polity and the authority to withdraw its
19 Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article XI, Section 1,
20 paragraph d. of the General Council Constitution.)

21
22 **e. Right of appeal.** When in need of counsel or advice, the South Texas
23 District affiliated sovereign assembly may appeal to the district officers
24 for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the
25 Executive Presbytery of The South Texas District Council of the
26 Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the
27 assembly has received proper help from the district officers. An appeal

1 may be made to the District Presbytery whose decision shall be
2 considered final.

3
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