

License Exam Study Guide

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| 1. Scriptures Inspired | 2 Tim 3:15-17 2 Peter 1:21 |
| 2. One True God | John 14:16-17 Matt 28:19 |
| 3. Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ | Matt 1:23 Philippians 2:9-11 |
| 4. Fall of Man | Gen 1:26-27 Rom 5:12-19 |
| 5. Salvation of Man | Luke 24:47 Rom 8:16 |
| 6. Ordinances of the Church | Rom 6:4 1 Cor 11:26 |
| 7. Baptism in the Holy Spirit | Acts 1:4,8 Luke 24:49 |
| 8. Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit | Acts 2:4 1 Cor 12:28 |
| 9. Sanctification | 1 Peter 1:15-16 Rom 12:1-2 |
| 10. Church and Its Mission | Eph 1:22-23; 2:22 Heb 12:23 |
| 11. The Ministry | Eph 4:11,16 Mark 16:15-20 |
| 12. Divine Healing | Isaiah 53:4-5 James 5:14-16 |
| 13. Blessed Hope | 1 Thess 4:16-17 1 Cor 15:51-52 |
| 14. Millennial Reign of Christ | Rev 19:11-14 Isaiah 11:6-9 |
| 15. Final Judgment | Matt 25:46 Mark 9:43-48 |
| 16. New Heavens and the New Earth | 2 Peter 3:13 Rev 21, 22 |

- **Antichrist:** A false Christ who will appear at the end of this age, become a world dictator, and demand worship.
- **Apocryphal books:** Books written during the period between the Book of Malachi and the birth of Jesus. The Jews did not include them in the Hebrew Bible and all the Protestant reformers rejected them as not being inspired.
- **Apostles:** a “sent one,” or ambassador. Specifically, those chosen personally by Jesus to be with Him and to be primary witnesses to His resurrection and His teachings.
- **Attributes of God:** Attributes can be divided into one of two categories: 1) His infinite powers. 2) His personality attributes, like holiness and love. *Communicable* attributes (those that human beings can also have) and the *incommunicable* attributes (those that belong to God alone).¹
- **Autographs- original manuscripts:** The original handwritten manuscripts produced by the human authors of Scripture.
- **Bible versions:** translations of the Old and New Testaments from the original Greek and Hebrew languages.
- **Calvinism:** Belief that God’s absolute sovereignty demanded absolute predestination of those who should be saved and who should be lost. He failed to see that God is sovereign over himself and therefore able to give human beings free will.

- **Canon of Scripture:** The list of books accepted by the Church as Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit. Four questions applied 1)Apostolicity 2)Universality 3)Contents 4)Inspiration.
- **Christology:** the field of study within Christian theology which is primarily concerned with the nature and person of Jesus Christ as recorded in the canonical Gospels and the epistles of the New Testament.
- **Classification of Spiritual Gifts:**
 - **Utterance-** Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues
 - **Power – Faith,** Healing, Miracles
 - **Revelation-Wisdom,** Knowledge, Discernment
- **Deacon:** a word meaning “servant,” “helper.” An office in the local church. Both men and women served as deacons.
- **Discipleship:** Discipleship is the diligent and intentional teachings and practices that promote the life-long style of becoming ever more like Jesus and reproducing the Christ-life in others.
- **Ecclesiology –the church:** study of theological doctrine related to the church. The study of the church.
- **Ecumenism:** ecumenical principles and practices especially as shown among religious groups (as Christian denominations), promoting or tending toward worldwide Christian unity or cooperation
- **Elders:** term indicating age and maturity. This term was also used by the Jews to designate the person who was known as the “ruler” of the synagogue. In the Greek-speaking world of the New Testament, the term “bishop” was used as the equivalent. “Bishop” literally means “overseer” or “superintendent.” Acts 20:28 indicates that they were also expected to have the ministry of shepherd, or pastor.
- **Eschatology and eschatological errors:** the study of end time prophecies and events. Errors occur when prophecy is spiritualized or applied allegorically. We believe in a literal interpretation of end time events. Errors include 1) Restitution of all things (universalism) 2) Setting a date for the Lord’s return 3) Post-Tribulation Rapture 4)Amillennialism. Credentials will be jeopardized if an issue is made regarding these errors.
- **Evangelism:** is the winning of new converts. It is the responsibility of the entire Body of Christ, not just the leaders. A major part of the Great Commission.
- **Great Commission:** Jesus’ command to spread the gospel to the whole world.
- **Hermeneutics:** is the study of the principles of interpretation concerning the books of the Bible. It is part of the broader field of hermeneutics which involves the study of principles for the text and includes all forms of communication: verbal and nonverbal.
- **Holy Spirit Baptism and gifts:** With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of gift and their uses in the work of the ministry. Separate and distinct experience to the new birth. The gifts are all concerned with the manifestation of

God's character, ways, and eternal purposes. Wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, miracles, gifts of healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy.

- **Illumination:** The believer is promised special assistance from the Holy Spirit to understand the Word of God. His Spirit is pleased to shed light on the truth and its application to your life.
- **Imminent return of Christ:** The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church. The Rapture.
- **Immutable:** : not capable of or susceptible to change. God and His Word are not capable of change.
- **Infallibility of Scripture:** : It is incapable of error and therefore not capable of misleading, deceiving, or disappointing us.
- **Initial Physical Evidence:** the baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.
- **Inspiration of Scripture:** Scripture was verbally inspired and is God-breathed and those who wrote were 'moved' or 'carried along' by the Holy Spirit. The original autographs are inspired and inerrant.
- **Justification:** God's act of declaring and accepting a person as righteous in His sight. God pardons sinners who accept Christ and treats them as not guilty – just as if they had never sinned.
- **Millennium:** Following the Rapture, the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years. The millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.
- **Ministry Gifts:** Apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, and teachers. Ephesians 4:11 – Gifts of Christ to the Church.
- **Mission of the Church:** Evangelize the lost, Worship God, Disciple believers, Show compassion.
- **New Heaven and new earth:** We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."
- **Ordinances of the church:** Baptism in water, by immersion & Holy Communion, consisting of the elements- bread (body of Christ) and the fruit of the vine(His blood).
- **Pentecost:** Christ's fulfillment of the promise to send the Comforter. It came 50 days after His resurrection. The believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit and experienced the power accompanying the Spirit's outpouring.
- **Post-Millennialism:** Refers to the teaching that the millennium is the Church Age or an extension of the Church Age, with Christ ruling but not personally present.
- **Pre-Millennialism:** Teaches that Jesus will personally return at the end of the Church Age and will establish His kingdom on earth for a thousand years. Emphasizes the literal interpretation of the Bible.

- **Prophecy:** a foretelling of future events and the practice of prophecy under Divine direction. Prophecy both predicts future events (Acts 11:28; 21:10,11) and reads the secrets of individual hearts (1 Corinthians 14:20–26) in order to provide corporate or personal exhortation.
- **Rapture:** snatching away of true believers in the air to meet with Jesus
- **Reconciliation:** The bringing of people to God in a restored fellowship.
- **Redemption:** Refers to Christ's paying the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross and the shedding of His blood.
- **Regeneration:** The Holy Spirit's work of giving new life to the sinner who repents and believes in Jesus.
- **Repentance:** Greek, *metanoia*, "a change of mind." That is, a change of basic attitudes toward God and Christ that involves a turning away from sin and a seeking of God's rule and righteousness.
- **Revelation of Christ:** The return of Christ in power and glory to destroy the forces of the Antichrist and establish the millennial kingdom.
- **Sacraments:** Water baptism and communion, same as the ordinances.
- **Saints –literal meaning:** "A holy person." In the NT all believers are saints.
- **Sanctification:** The work of the Holy Spirit that separates believers from sin and evil and dedicates them to the worship and service of the Lord. There is an initial act of sanctification at conversion and a continuing process of sanctification as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in putting to death wrong desires.
- **Second death:** Eternal punishment in the lake of fire.
- **Security of the believer:** In view that the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ; in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness; in view of the clear teaching that man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life; and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away; the AG disapprove of the unconditional security position. The AG stands between the extreme positions of Calvinism and Arminianism. It accepts the scriptural elements found in both teachings.
- **Tithing principles:** The practice of tithing predates the giving of the Old Testament law. Abraham tithed in response to God's blessing and faithfulness (Genesis 14:18-20) and was no doubt blessed because of his faithful tithing. Under the law, proceeds from the tithes were directed primarily for the support of the Levites and priests who provided religious leadership (Numbers 18:21-29) and for the relief of the needy (Deuteronomy 14:22-29). Today's church still relies on the support of tithers. The Assemblies of God has always been a proponent of tithing (or giving one-tenth of one's personal income to support the work of God). We believe tithing is a recognition that everything we have comes from God. The practice checks our greed, promotes personal discipline and thrift, testifies to our faith, promotes God's work in the world, and alleviates human need. While we do not believe tithing to be a condition for salvation, we do believe it is a very

important biblical model, one which should set the minimal standard for Christian giving for people in all income ranges.

- **Transcendence:** refers to the aspect of God's nature and power which is wholly independent of (and removed from) the material universe. This is contrasted with immanence where God is fully present in the physical world and thus accessible to creatures in various ways.
- **Trinity:** The one God who is eternally three in person: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though the word “trinity” is not found in the Bible, we can look at creation, Jesus’ baptism, and John 3:16 as just a few examples of the expression of the Trinity in Scripture.
- **Verbal plenary inspiration:** Not just the ideas, but the actual words of every portion of the Bible are inspired. Verbal (extending even to the words), plenary (full, or the entire original 66 books) are inspired.
- **Vicarious Atonement:** Vicarious Atonement is the teaching that the atonement which states that Christ's death was "legal." It satisfied the legal justice of God. Jesus bore the penalty of sin when he died on the cross. His death was a substitution for the believers. In other words, he substituted himself for them upon the cross. Jesus hung in our place as he bore our sin in his body on the cross.
- **Water Baptism:** The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. It is a public declaration of our identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection, for they made possible our new life in Him.
- **Worldliness:** of, relating to, or devoted to this world and its pursuits rather than to religion or spiritual affairs.

Church Administration and Assemblies of God Polity

- **Annual Credential Renewal Process:** Credentials granted through the NOMOAG by the General Council of the Assemblies of God are renewed on an annual basis, by December 31 of each year. Renewals can be completed online by logging into your AG Passport account. Renewal forms can also be downloaded from the General Secretary’s website after November 1, and hard copies are mailed to ministers shortly thereafter.

The following excerpts from the General Council Bylaws address credential renewals:

General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 10, Credential Renewals...

b. Expiration date. All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister.

The minister is to complete the form, taking care to answer all questions and sign the form.

The renewal along with any outstanding tithe, should be mailed to the Northern Missouri District postmarked no later than December 31 of each year. You should include \$25. If General Council dues are owed, please include a separate check made payable to the General Council.

NOMOAG ministers send 75% of their tithe on ministry work and 25% of their tithe on secular work, to NOMOAG on a monthly basis. Regardless of income, ministers (except "senior retired") are at least expected to contribute to NOMOAG the same amount that they contribute to General Council. Ministers support the General Council as noted in the Bylaws excerpts below.

General Council Bylaws Article VII. Ministry, Section 10. f.

Support of Headquarters: The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

The General Council required minimum is:

- Ordained - \$25 per month (\$300 per year)
- Licensed - \$20 per month (\$240 per year)
- Certified - \$10.00 per month (\$120 per year)

The Northern Missouri District Council required minimum is:

- Ordained - \$25 per month (\$300 per year)**
- Licensed - \$20 per month (\$240 per year)**
- Certified - \$10 per month (\$120 per year)**

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

- **Articles of Incorporation for a local church:** The articles of incorporation is a short document that contains the church's name, address, period of duration, initial board of directors, and statement of purposes. The articles of incorporation is also called the charter. The Articles of Incorporation is *the most authoritative legal document* that a church has. In the event of a conflict between the charter and any other legal document, the charter will control. Be sure you are well versed on your church's charter.
- **Assemblies of God U.S. Missions:** Our mission is to fulfill the Great Commission in the United States through missionaries, chaplains, and project volunteers.

Our vision is to establish a replication presence through missionaries, chaplains, and project volunteers in every special needs group, ethnic group, and cultural environment in America to execute the Great Commission so that none perish.

- **Assemblies of God World Missions:** Assemblies of God World Missions is engaged in missionary endeavor pursuing the original and audacious commitment of our forefathers to unprecedented world evangelism. This commitment, the mission of AGWM, is composed of four essential elements.
 - 1) Reaching: We are proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ to the spiritually lost in all the world through every available means.
 - 2) Planting: We are establishing churches in more than 190 countries, following the New Testament pattern.
 - 3) Training: We are training leaders throughout the world to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to their own people and to other nations.
 - 4) Touching: We are touching poor and suffering people with the compassion of Jesus Christ and inviting them to become His followers.

- **Assemblies of God membership:** The Assemblies of God is incorporated, meaning it has a legal identity recognized by state and federal government. The Fellowship has a corporate name, The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The AG Constitution identifies the membership of the Assemblies of God. Membership determines who is entitled to the privileges and subject to the responsibilities related to the Fellowship. The membership of the AG are Ordained and Licensed ministers, and churches with a Certificate of Affiliation. Read Articles I, VI, and VII of the Constitution for further clarification.

- **Assemblies of God fourfold mission:** 1. Evangelize the lost. 2. Worship God. 3. Disciple believers. 4. Show compassion.

- **Civil Law:** Civil law seeks to resolve non-criminal disputes such as disagreements over the meaning of contracts, property ownership, divorce, child custody, and damages for personal and property damage. A civil court is a place where people can solve their problems with people peacefully. The function of civil law is to provide a legal remedy to solve problems. Sometimes civil law is based on a state or federal statute; at other times civil law is based on a ruling by the court. Civil law covers a wide spectrum of topics. Some of these topics are:
 - consumer law
 - international law
 - agricultural law
 - employment law
 - animal law

- entertainment law
- business law
- family law
- sports law
- tax law
- intentional torts such as libel, slander, defamation of character, battery and assault.
- negligence

Plaintiff--the person who feels he or she has not been treated fairly by another person and seeks a solution in a civil court. This party has the burden of proving that he or she was treated unfairly. **Defendant**--the person who the plaintiff claims has treated him or her unfairly.

- **Clergy-penitent privilege:** is the legal mechanism that prevents clergy or counselors from being required to disclose confidential communications in a court proceeding. This privilege belongs to the person who disclosed the information and is designed for his protection, rather than for the protection of the clergy. In pastoral or spiritual counseling, the only exception is in the case of suspected child abuse.
- **Conducting background screenings of workers:** Find a reliable agency that does an adequate search of local, state, and national databases. Require that volunteers and staff submit to a background screening prior to beginning any work. Especially important for any persons working with children, developmentally disabled, and seniors (including bus/van drivers).
- **Confidentiality:** Confidentiality places a duty on clergy not to disclose information shared with them in private. Confidentiality is also the ethical and often legal responsibility to safeguard congregation members from unauthorized disclosures of information given in the context of a confidential pastor-parishioner relationship.
- **District affiliated churches:** are those which have not yet developed to the point where they qualify for full autonomy. Less than 20 voting members. See Article XI of the Constitution.
- **District council governance principles:** Article X of the AG Constitution. The district council shall have supervision over all the ecclesial and sacerdotal activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws or in cooperative agreements between the General Council and the district council. It holds the authority to examine and present candidates to the General Council for credentialing. The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings. The district council shall not violate the Constitution or Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- **Divine healing and atonement:** Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.
- **Divorce and remarriage – rules for ministers and exceptions:** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse

has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9, NIV), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15, NIV).

- **Ethnic churches and fellowships within the Assemblies of God:** Ethnic and language fellowships are organized groups of Assemblies of God churches in the United States that do not yet have enough members in order to become recognized as districts. Currently, ethnic minority congregations make up more than 25 percent of all AG congregations in the United States.
- **Financial obligation for the licensed ministers to General Council and district council:** NOMOAG ministers send 75% of their tithe on ministry work and 25% of their tithe on secular work, to NOMOAG on a monthly basis. Regardless of income, ministers (except "senior retired") are at least expected to contribute to NOMOAG the same amount that they contribute to General Council. Ministers support the General Council as noted in the Bylaws excerpts below. ***Beginning 2014, for three years, NOMOAG will require 100% of ministerial tithe to be given to the district.**

General Council Bylaws Article VII. Ministry, Section 10. f.

Support of Headquarters: The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

The required minimum is:

Ordained - \$20 per month (\$240 per year)
Licensed - \$15 per month (\$180 per year)
Certified - \$7.50 per month (\$90 per year)

Beginning 2014 the minimum is:

Ordained - \$25 per month (\$300 per year)
Licensed - \$20 per month (\$240 per year)
Certified - \$10 per month (\$120 per year)

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

- **General Council affiliated churches:** General Council affiliated churches enjoy full autonomy, having developed to the point of where they are self-governing and self-supporting. These fundamental principles have been catalysts for growth in the Fellowship.
- **General Council Executive Presbytery makeup:** Consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general

treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. Executive Presbytery and Board of Directors shall be interchangeable terms.

- **General Council governance principles:** Bylaws Article XVI, Section 3 – Each affiliated ministry shall select and manage its own employees, maintain accounting records, hold title to property, obtain insurance, file tax returns, prepare financial statements, pay salaries and other expenses, raise funds, create and distribute promotional literature, provide charitable contribution receipts to donors, and in all other respects operate as an autonomous legal ministry except as noted in Section 4 through 6.
- **General Council nondiscriminatory policy:** The General Council of the Assemblies of God is an equal opportunity employer, dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment on the basis of age, sex, color, race, national origin, or disability that does not prohibit performance of the essential job functions.
- **Housing allowance:** Ministers who own or rent their home do not pay income taxes on the portion of their compensation that is designated in advance by their employing church as a housing allowance—to the extent that the allowance is used to pay for housing-related expenses and, in the case of ministers who own their home, does not exceed the annual fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities).
- **Local church governance:** Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4). (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution, or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing board cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church.
- **Membership in secret orders:** Article IX of the Assemblies of God Bylaws includes an entire section on forbidding membership in secret orders. The stated reasons for not allowing credentialed ministers to belong to secret orders and for encouraging lay persons to avoid involvement with such orders can be summarized as follows:

1. The activities of secret orders demand time and energy that divert the servant of the Lord from efforts to fulfill the Great Commission.
 2. The binding loyalty to fellow members of the secret society—many of whom are not fellow believers in Jesus Christ and His saving work—is an unworthy joining together of believers with unbelievers.
 3. The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of secret orders channel activities toward improving only the natural part of humankind instead of changing the heart of the spiritual being.
 4. Commitment to secret orders and their teachings leads one to a wrong emphasis on salvation through good works and improving society.
- **Military Service:** As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace. We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose whether to declare their position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.
 - **Ministry requirement for licensed ministers:** Qualifications for License shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel. Applicant must be engaged in full-time ministry. The applicant must complete all required courses before submitting the official application!
 - **Nonprofit corporate law:** A nonprofit corporation is a corporation formed to carry out a charitable, educational, religious, literary or scientific purpose. A nonprofit can raise funds by receiving public and private grant money and donations from individuals and companies. Certain federal, state, and local income, property and sales tax exemptions are available to nonprofit corporations. The federal and state governments do not generally tax nonprofit corporations on money they make that is related to their nonprofit purpose, because of the benefits they contribute to society. The most common federal tax exemption for nonprofits comes from Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which is why nonprofits are sometimes called 501(c)(3) corporations. Tax exempt nonprofit organizations offer donors an individual deduction for contributions. (Private donors can claim personal federal income tax deductions of up to 50% of adjusted gross income for donations made to 501 (c) (3) organizations.)
 - **Performing marriage ceremonies:** 1) Ministerial guidelines. We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Bylaws. 2) Violation of conscience not required. We realize that remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in the Bylaws could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies. 3) Same-sex ceremonies. No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word. Any minister of our Fellowship who

performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship. 4) Counsel. An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

- **Private ownership of religious institutions:** The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the district council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation. A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.
- **Privileged information:** Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant, to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.
- **Social Security (SE) taxes for ministers:** Ministers are allowed by federal law to exempt themselves from self-employment taxes by filing a timely exemption application (Form 4361) with the IRS. To qualify for exemption, ministers must meet several requirements. Among other things, they must certify that they are opposed on the basis of religious convictions to the acceptance of public insurance benefits (including social security and Medicare) based on their ministerial services. The application must be filed by the due date of the federal tax return for the second year in which a minister has net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more, any part of which derives from the performance of services in the exercise of ministry.
- **Solicitation of funds – rules regarding:** 1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization. 2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies. Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities. Projects of general interest to the district must have authorization of the district officers. Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Promotion of all projects of a missions character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery. 3) The obtaining and use of mailing

lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

- **Tongues and their use:** 1) the initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. 2) Personal tongues, that is, the gift of utterance in unknown languages in private devotions, has the very worthwhile value of edifying the one engaged in prayer. To pray in an unknown tongue is to engage in a lofty form of worship, it builds ones faith and spiritual life. 3) the gift of tongues employed in public services is for the edifying of the whole gathering and must be interpreted.
- **Voluntary cooperative fellowship:** By “voluntary” it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits one could derive from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

By “cooperation” it is meant that, to the best of one’s ability, he or she will comply with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization, which include active participation, and will respect the will of the majority expressed through democratic processes as long as he or she remains a member.

Hence, “voluntary cooperation” means that one of his or her own free will decides to become a cooperating member of the assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation being obligatory and not optional.