



## **Procedures to Advance to General Council Status**

The Assemblies of God categorizes churches according to their legal corporation and governance: District Affiliated churches are governed by the District Council, while General Council churches are self-governing. This document outlines how a District Council Affiliated church may advance to General Council Affiliated status.

What will be required? (According to General Council and District Council bylaws, and Presbytery policy.)

1. Accept the Tenants of Faith of the A/G
2. Adopt a standard of membership
3. Have at least 20 voting members
4. Adopt governance documents that are recommended by the A/G
5. Have a qualified church board
6. A credentialed A/G minister as Pastor
7. At least three operating departments, one of which must be Christian Education
8. Demonstrated ability to be financially self-sufficient
9. Refinance or assignment of the church mortgage or transfer of the lease (if needed.)
10. Participation in a District Sponsored Board Member Training Seminar.
11. Approval by the District Presbytery

There will need to be an official business meeting to:

1. Approve a resolution to advance to General Council status
2. Approve the recommended constitution and bylaws
3. Officially elect/ratify the Sr. Pastor
4. Officially elect/ratify the Church Board
5. Authorize financial/property decisions (if any)

How to prepare

1. Pastor sends letter to DCDM Board requesting permission to begin procedures to Advance to General Council status. (If approved, church may proceed with next step.)
2. The Pastor contacts the Assistant Superintendent's office for application and materials. (The Presbytery is notified that an application has been requested.)
3. The Advisory Committee reviews the material and approves a motion to recommend that the church advance to General Council status.
4. The church contacts the mortgage lender to apply for a refinance or an assignment/transfer of the mortgage. (Some lenders may transfer the loan, others may require a refinance.) The church should contact the District Properties Administrator for assistance.
5. Pastor contacts the District Office to schedule or attend a Board Member Training Seminar.
6. The Advisory Committee reviews the recommended Constitution and Bylaws and supplies the unique information:
  - a. Name of the church
  - b. Number of Board Members
  - c. Month of the Annual Business Meeting

**Further changes are not recommended, and may be rejected by the District Council.** Making further changes could postpone or scuttle the application. If further changes are desired, please consult with the District before proceeding.
7. The Advisory Committee approves to nominate
  - a. The current Sr. Pastor for election
  - b. The current Board Members for election

(After election, each board member must be randomly assigned 1, 2, or 3 year term, so that terms are staggered.)
8. The Advisory Committee notifies the membership of their intention, supplies membership with the recommended bylaws, and schedules an informational meeting for discussion.
9. The Advisory Committee schedules an official meeting, notifies the membership, and invites a district official to officiate.
10. The Advisory Committee prepares ballots for election of Sr. Pastor and Board Members.

Election of Senior Pastor		
Rev. John Brown	Yes	No
	(circle one)	

The Business Meeting

1. Take roll of all members present
2. Call the meeting to order
3. Pray

4. Announce the business agenda

- a. *“The purpose of our meeting is to approve to advance our church to General Council status, and to take the subsequent actions that are necessary to make that happen.”*
- b. *Let me explain, our church is not only a body of believers, it is also a legal entity recognized by the Assemblies of God and our civil government. Until now, our church has been a “District Affiliated Church.” This means that we are legally owned and controlled by the District Council. This has been beneficial to us, and has provided us sufficient covering to allow us to grow and prosper. However we are now at a place where we can be self-owned and self-governed, and we can advance to “General Council Affiliation” status.*
- c. *I should mention that self-governance does not mean that we are becoming “independent of the Assemblies of God!” On the contrary, it means that we are becoming “fully Assemblies of God”—we are advancing to full “General Council Affiliation” status.*
- d. *However advancing to General Council status requires the membership to make certain decisions and legal changes. That is what this meeting is about today.*
- e. *The agenda for today’s meeting is*
  - i. *Adopt a membership resolution to advance to General Council status*
  - ii. *Adopt a Constitution and Bylaws*
  - iii. *Election of Sr. Pastor*
  - iv. *Election of Board members*
  - v. *Authorize financial and property decisions (if needed.)*

5. Proceed with the Business Agenda

- a. *Adopt a membership resolution to advance to General Council status*

*(An Advisory Committee Member rises to make a motion.) “Mr. Chairman, On behalf of the Advisory Committee, I move that the membership of \_\_\_\_\_ approves the decision to advance our church from District Council Affiliation status to General Council Affiliation status.”*

*This is a voice vote, requiring simple majority to pass.*
- b. *Adopt a Constitution and Bylaws*

*(An Advisory Committee Member rises to make a motion.) “Mr. Chairman, I move that the membership approve the Constitution and Bylaws that have been recommended by the District Council and our Advisory Board.”*

*This is a voice vote, needing a simple majority to pass.*
- c. *Election of Sr. Pastor*

*(Chairman announces election.) The Advisory Committee has nominated \_\_\_\_\_ for the position of Sr. Pastor.*

*This is a secret ballot vote, requiring 2/3’s majority to elect.*

d. *Election of Board members*

*(Chairman announces election.) The Advisory Committee has nominated \_\_\_\_\_ for the positions of Board Member.*

*This is a secret ballot vote, requiring 2/3's majority to elect.*

e. *Authorize financial and property decisions (if needed.)*

*(A Board Member rises to make a motion.) "Mr. Chairman, I move that we authorize the Church Board to proceed with the transfer of property ownership from the District Council to \_\_\_\_\_, including the authorization to refinance the mortgage."*

*This is a voice-vote, requiring simple majority to elect.*

f. *Adjourn the meeting*

Final Application Submitted

1. Application with membership roster
2. Minutes of the Business Meeting
3. Approved Constitution and Bylaws
4. Scheduled date of the Board Training Seminar
5. Loan and/or property documents
6. Fees paid

District Action

1. Review the application, bylaws, etc.
2. Open escrow on properties and loans
3. Application submitted to the Presbytery

General Council Affiliation is not final until

1. The application is approved by the District Presbytery and submitted to the General Secretary
2. Articles of Incorporation have been amended and submitted to the Secretary of State.
3. A letter of approval has been received from the General Secretary.

5/6/2010