

The
ARTICLES OF FELLOWSHIP
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD INDIA FELLOWSHIP
OF NORTH AMERICA

Adopted on

July 28, 2007

Presented to the Executive Presbytery
September 18-19, 2007

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD INDIA FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICA

ARTICLES OF FELLOWSHIP

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, this General Council of the Assemblies of God has made provision through the agency of national fellowships which may be formed for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism and the establishing of churches within its group, and

WHEREAS, there is a desire expressed by a number of Assemblies of God ministers to form a national fellowship, and

WHEREAS, regional meetings have been conducted to move toward this goal, and

WHEREAS, it was requested by some district officers as well as some of the Assemblies of God ministers that a meeting be convened through the office of the Executive Director of the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions for the purpose of officially forming the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we agree to adopt and be governed by the following Articles of Fellowship.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name shall be the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America shall include the entire United States of America including the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America is a voluntary cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

ARTICLE IV. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America shall be:

1. To evangelize Indian communities of people and others in the United States and foreign countries (in cooperation with World Missions) and to plant churches in cooperation with the various District Councils of the Assemblies of God.
2. To provide spiritual renewal, especially to those who have fallen from the faith.
3. To organize national and regional conferences annually for the Fellowship.
4. To welcome incoming Indian speakers and others who are duly approved by their leadership.
5. To assist Indian newcomers in adjusting to the American way of life.
6. To train workers for the ministry of the Gospel.
7. To provide information about the Fellowship to all interested parties.
8. To build a bridge between the Indian communities and the churches in the U.S. and strategically partner with AG U.S. Missions.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths adopted by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, U.S.A.

ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. To the General Council and the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

The Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America, as an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a non-profit, religious corporation with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, is subordinate and amenable to the said General Council as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws (see Article V., Section 4.a.), and has a cooperative working relationship with the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions (AGUSM) in matters of mutual concern.

Section 2. To the District Councils of the Assemblies of God

Ministers of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America shall conduct their ministries in relationship to and in cooperation with the appropriate geographic District Councils. Since ministry in the USA is conducted primarily through the District Councils, this working relationship is vital to the long-term success of the Fellowship's ministry.

Section 3. To Local Assemblies

The local Indian assembly may become an integral part of and subject to the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America with privileges and responsibilities as prescribed in these Articles of Fellowship.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ministerial Members

All ministers of Indian origin or non-Indian origin but ministering to Indians, holding current ministerial credentials from the General Council, including those holding Ordained, Licensed to Preach, Specialized Ministries License, and Certified Minister credentials from the district councils, as well as those with local credentials from an Assembly of God church, may be members of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America.

Section 2. Congregational Members

All Indian congregations which are Assemblies of God district-affiliated or General Council-affiliated churches, as well as Indian congregations that have official cooperating assembly status with a district council, may be members of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America.

Section 3. Cooperative Members

Any qualified church, minister, or church member wishing to participate in open fellowship meetings is welcome, including those from Canada. It is the intention of Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America, to be inclusive in nature.

Section 4. Voting Members

a. All Assemblies of God credentialed ministers as described in section 1 who choose to belong to the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America shall have the privilege of voice and vote in the official business meetings of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America.

b. All Indian congregations as described in Section 2 shall have the privilege of sending one voting delegate to the official business meetings of the Fellowship. This delegate shall be appointed biennially by the official board/committee of the church.

c. A cooperative minister, who ministers to Indians, may make a request for voice and voting privileges from the executive officers. The request may be granted by unanimous approval from the executive officers.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Biennial Business Meeting.

There shall be an biennial business meeting of the fellowship. At this meeting the election of officers shall take place and the reports of all officers shall be read. This meeting shall be held at a revival, conference, or camp meeting setting. If biennially, this meeting should be held in the off year of General Council. The time and place shall be announced by the officers. Due notice shall be given 90 days immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 2. Special Business Meetings.

Special business meetings of the Fellowship may be called when necessary after proper notice has been given by the President or by the Secretary of the Fellowship, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the elected officers. Special meetings may also be called by a petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the Fellowship. The petition is to be placed in the hands of the President or the Secretary and announcements made at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Regional Meetings.

The India Fellowship may also have regional fellowship meetings. The dates and locations of the regional meetings shall be set in cooperation and coordination with the executive officers of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America.

Section 4. Quorum.

All those officers and members who are present at any special or regular business meeting which has been duly called, provided these officers and members have paid their dues (see Article X, Finances), shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Order of Business.

The regular order of business for the biennial meeting of the Fellowship shall be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
3. Reports of:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Treasurer
4. Reports of Committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

The officers of the Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be chosen from the membership and shall be ministers with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, in good standing, of spiritual maturity and ministerial experience who shall be knowledgeable of the workings of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The Intercultural Ministries director of U.S. Missions or one acting on his behalf shall serve in an advisory capacity. All officers must be approved by the General Council Executive Presbytery. Officers shall take office either immediately upon election or at such time as determined by the membership.

Section 1. Elections

a. The President and the Vice President shall be elected to serve for two years. They shall be nominated by Fellowship members either from the floor or by secret ballot at the biennial business meeting of the Fellowship or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A simple majority vote of all votes shall be required to constitute election. They shall be ordained ministers with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. If no ordained ministers are available from within the fellowship, they can form a fellowship, but they will not have representation on the General Presbytery Board.

b. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be chosen from the membership of the Fellowship. They may be nominated from the floor or by secret ballot and shall be elected by a simple majority vote at the biennial business

meeting. Their terms of office shall be for two years from the time of election. They shall be ordained with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

a. The President shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the Fellowship and shall direct all of its activities. He must be of Indian origin and fluent in the Malayalam and English languages. He shall be the President of the Fellowship and shall act as Chairman of the business meetings of the Fellowship. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Fellowship and shall arrange for all special meetings and conventions. He shall be the General Presbyter of the Fellowship. He, together with the elected officers, shall act in the examination of applicants for membership.

b. The Vice President is chosen to serve the Fellowship and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the President in all matters pertaining to the Fellowship in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. He must be of Indian origin and fluent in the Malayalam and English languages. The Vice President shall act as President in his absence.

c. The Secretary shall read the minutes of the official meetings of the Fellowship at the biennial and special business meetings of the Fellowship. He shall keep a record of the membership of the Fellowship and perform other clerical functions necessary to the proper discharge of duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal (where Fellowship is incorporated). He must be of Indian origin and fluent in the Malayalam and English languages.

d. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Fellowship which may be committed to it. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the Fellowship and shall disburse the same by checks as authorized by the Fellowship officers. He shall make an itemized report biennially at the convention. The Treasurer shall issue monthly receipts for any contributions received that month. The accounts shall be audited under the direction of the elected officers. He must be of Indian origin and fluent in the Malayalam and English languages and understand the basics of bookkeeping and accounting.

Section 3. Vacancies

a. **The President.** When the President has been called for a definite period of time of two years, the tenure of office shall conclude at the end of his term of office or termination of AG credentials. However, he could be re-elected by a simple majority vote, just as though his name came before the Fellowship for the first time. In the event the President has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, power is vested in two-thirds majority of the members to ask for the resignation of the President at any of its regular business meetings. When a vacancy in the Presidency shall occur, the Vice President shall act as President until a new one shall be chosen as President as described in Section 1. In case the Vice President cannot act as President, the Secretary may act.

b. **Other Officers.** Any office other than the President may be declared vacant by an act of the majority of the membership at any regular or special business meeting. Grounds for such action shall be: (1) unscriptural conduct, (2) doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith, (3) incompetency in office or (4) for any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the Fellowship if he so desires.

Section 4. General Presbytery Representation.

The Assemblies of God India Fellowship of North America shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by at least one or more of its qualified members in accordance with the provision of the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3,f, and General Council Bylaw Article II, Section 2, f., (5).

a. **Representation.** The number of General Presbytery representatives is determined by the number of fellowship member churches. Fellowships with 150 or more churches shall be represented by three qualified members; a fellowship with 100 to 149 churches shall be represented by two qualified members; and a fellowship with 99 churches or less shall be represented by one qualified member. The first General Council representative is the President of the Fellowship. If there is more than one representative, the second General Council representative must be a pastor.

b. **Qualifications.** The ethnic fellowship general presbytery representative shall be an Ordained Minister with the General Council of the Assemblies of God in good standing, and shall be elected to a two year term at their official business meeting.

c. **Election.** The additional ethnic fellowship general presbyter(s), other than the president, shall be elected biennially by a secret ballot. The term of office is for two years and they will assume office immediately upon election.

d. **Vacancies.** If an ethnic fellowship removes from office a general presbyter who is serving as an executive presbyter, and that removal is in accordance with the ethnic fellowship's bylaws, then the Executive Presbytery shall determine that the seat is vacant with the vacancy to be filled by election of the General Presbytery (with consultation from the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions).

ARTICLE X. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance and expansion of the Fellowship shall be provided by dues, voluntary contributions, and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Dues for ministerial members and congregational members shall be determined at the biennial business meeting of the Fellowship. Offerings shall be accepted by the Fellowship at such time and in such ways as agreed upon by the President and other officers. Disbursement of funds shall be administered by the Treasurer under the direction of the Fellowship officers acting in communication and agreement with one another (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1; II Corinthians 9:6-8). Funds received on behalf of the Fellowship shall be used for agreed upon Fellowship purposes only.

ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The following committees may serve the Fellowship:

- a. World Ministries
- b. Sunday School
- c. Youth Ministries
- d. Men's Ministries
- e. Women's Ministries

Section 2. The chairperson and the members of these committees shall be appointed biennially by the officers of the Fellowship.

Section 3. Other committees shall be appointed as the need arises.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

These articles may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided the members have been informed about the amendment at least 90 days prior to the meeting. Amendments must be sent to the Intercultural Ministries Department of U.S. Missions in order to facilitate Board of Administration and/or Executive Presbytery approval.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| _____ President's Signature | _____ Date |
| _____ Vice-President's Signature | _____ Date |
| _____ Secretary's Signature | _____ Date |
| _____ Treasurer's Signature | _____ Date |