

New Hope Assembly of God Bylaw Amendment Guide  
December 17, 2008

When we became a “General Council Assembly”, we adopted a set of generic bylaws. As the board began working with our new bylaws, a number of areas have come up where the rules do not fit our church’s situation well. We of the Church Board have prepared an amendment to our bylaws for your consideration. Many of the changes are just cleaning up wording and putting our name and appropriate dates where they belong. The significant changes are as follows:

- 1) References to “Deacons” will be changed to “Board Members”. Length of term changed to 3 years. Qualification and Nomination of Board Member changes.
- 2) Minimum voting membership age raised to 18. Existing members under the age of 18 shall retain full voting privileges.
- 3) Removed the requirement for the Treasurer to be a Board Member.
- 4) Quorum changed from 1/5 of the membership to 1/3 of the membership. Quorum means the minimum number of members required to be present in order to have a business meeting.

The following is a complete list of the proposed amendments to New Hope Assembly of God’s Bylaws, presented for consideration at the January 2009 business meeting.

Proposed wording is written in red.

- 1) Pg 1 Change title on title page to read “**New Hope Assembly of God Bylaws**”
- 2) Pg 1 Change Recommended by statement to say “**Original Recommended by the District Presbytery of The Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God**” Adding the word “Original” gives the District credit for our beginning document, while eliminating the possible wrong idea that our amended document was recommended by the District.
- 3) Pg 1 Change the date section to read:  
“**Original Approved by Ohio District May 13, 1997**  
**Revised by Ohio District September 16, 1997**  
**Adopted by New Hope Assembly of God on November 4, 2007**  
**New Hope Assembly of God Revision 1 January 25, 2009**”
- 4) The current copy of our bylaws has the following statement in italics on each page: “*Recommended Bylaws for Local General Council Assemblies (For churches with an elected Deacon Board)*”. Change this statement to read: “**New Hope Assembly of God Bylaws**”.

- 5) Pg 5, Delete the Bold Heading: “Recommended Bylaws for Local General Council Assemblies of God Churches”. Page will begin with “Bylaws of New Hope ....”
- 6) Pg 5, fill in the blanks after BYLAWS OF: “New Hope Assembly of God, Adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009”
- 7) Page 5, Article 1, Name. Insert after “The name of this assembly shall be: “New Hope Assembly of God”.
- 8) Page 7, Article III 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: Change the phrase “qualifications for deacons” to “qualifications for board members”. (Note: this particular item requires a 100% affirmative vote per Article XIV. With less than a 100 % yes vote, we can leave this paragraph as is, and the document will simply be a bit less tidy).
- 9) Page 14, Article VI, section 1, f - Membership: Change to read “Having reached at least 18 years of age. Any member under the age of 18 who joined this assembly at the organizational meeting on November 4, 2007 shall retain full voting rights.”
- 10) Page 17 Article VII, C (2) Change word “Deacons” to “Board Members” and replace the existing paragraph with the following:  
“Board Members shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge who shall give evidence of scriptural leadership qualities. Board members shall be at least 23 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God. Credentials issued by a local assembly shall not be considered ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God for the purpose of selecting board members.”
- 11) Page 18, Article VII, D, 2 (5) Treasurer. Change to read “The church board shall elect a treasurer from among the church membership.”
- 12) Page 20, Article VIII, section 1. Delete paragraph A (Nominating Committee) and re-index so that Pastor would become A, Church Board Members would become B, and so on. Note: Nomination of the Pastor covered in the “Pastor” paragraph, nomination of board members added to the “Board Member” paragraph.

- 13) Page 20, Article VIII, section 1, C – Church Board Members. Change to read:

**“B. CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS**

Church board members shall be nominated by a nominating committee comprised of the church board plus at least one additional church member appointed by the church board. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting. The pastor also has the right to veto any potential nominations. Church Board Members shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at a business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Church board members shall be elected for a 3-year term, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Church board members may not serve more than two consecutive 3-year terms. The terms of church board members shall be staggered appropriately.” This change includes nomination procedures as well as lengthening the term of service from 2 years per term to 3 years, making the mandatory staggering of terms for a 3 person board more efficient.

- 14) Page 21, Article VIII, section 1, E Treasurer. Change to read “**The treasurer shall be elected by the church board from among the church membership. The term of office shall be one year. An individual may be re-elected to multiple terms of office as treasurer.**”
- 15) Page 21, Article VIII, Section 2, E: Change the phrase “(other than that of the pastor or deacon)” to “**(other than that of the pastor or board member)**”.
- 16) Page 21, Article VIII, Section 2, F: Change the phrase “(other than that of the pastor or deacon)” to “**(other than that of the pastor or board member)**”.
- 17) Page 22, Article IX, Section 2, Annual Business meeting. Change the last sentence to read “**Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the *date of the meeting.***” The words “date of the” help to clarify the notice required.
- 18) Page 22, Article IX, Section 3, Paragraph 4, Special Business meeting. Change the sentence beginning with the word Notice to: “**Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the *date of the meeting.***” Same as item above.

- 19) Page 23, Article IX, Section 5, A: Change the age 16 to 18 and add “Any member under the age of 18 who joined this assembly at the organizational meeting on November 4, 2007 shall retain full voting rights.”
- 20) Page 23, Article IX, Section 6. Quorum. Change to read: “A Quorum shall consist of 1/3 of the voting membership.”
- 21) Page 24, X Departments. Section 1 contains all necessary guidance for governance of Departments. Delete sections 2 through 4

End of proposed amendments to New Hope Assembly of God Bylaws.



New Hope’s Board discussed board member term limit transition (setting up an initial schedule to comply with the requirement in Article VIII, section 1, C of the current bylaws, that terms be staggered). All 3 current board members were elected in November of 2007 at the special business meeting for becoming a General Council Assembly. If we all stayed for a 3 year term, all terms would be vacated at the same time. The board decided on Sep 3, 2008 that the term occupied by Jay Rudd would expire in January of 2010 (essentially a two year term), the term occupied by Mike Rieser would expire in January of 2011 (three year first term), and the term occupied by Rod Sorensen would expire in January of 2012 (four year term). The board decided that this transition schedule does not need to be included in the bylaws but is presented here for your information.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Sorensen  
Secretary, New Hope Assembly of God