

PREFACE FOR  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR  
LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

In response to an increasing demand for some practical rules of order to serve as a guide in the development and conduct of local assemblies, the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God has prepared a pamphlet entitled "Suggested Constitution and Bylaws for Local Assemblies."

It is not proposed that a new or small assembly should adopt this Constitution and Bylaws. Such assembly should adopt a simple form of church government prepared by the District Presbytery, and should consider itself to be under the direct supervision of the District officary until such time as the assembly matures sufficiently to warrant recognition of full sovereignty in self-government.

The provisions in this pamphlet have been thought out carefully and should have full and careful consideration before adoption or rejection. It is not advisable to adopt them as a whole, and then to fasten the pamphlet in the minute book of the church. It is better to adopt each article by itself, proceeding through the pamphlet and making such changes as may be necessary, and then to write the entire new constitution as adopted into the minute book, to become a permanent record and guide of conduct for the assembly.

When a choice or alternate provision is offered in these Suggested Bylaws, such as nominations by a nominating committee or nominations from the floor (see Article II, Sections 2, 3, 4), the Bylaws should be amended to eliminate one or the other alternative according to the desire of the assembly.

It would be well to examine carefully Article VII, Officers, and to note the provision made for a Board of Deacons. Some churches have