

The Constitution Of
Brockton Assembly of God
Revised March 2023

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ARTICLE I. NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this church shall be Brockton Assembly of God (hereafter known by the acronym BAG) located at 199 Warren Avenue, Brockton, Massachusetts.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, BAG enters into voluntary cooperative fellowship with churches of like faith affiliated with the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God, and with the General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities of said affiliations.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

BAG exists to be a local church with a global influence. This mission will be accomplished in the following ways:

- 1) By exaltation of Christ through worship, prayer, and the proclamation of God's Word
- 2) By the evangelization of lost people, locally and globally
- 3) By the edification of the saints through discipleship
- 4) By the equipping of all believers for works of ministry

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

- 1) BAG will be directed according to the standards set forth in the Holy Bible and by the laws of the land.
- 2) BAG has the right to own, hold in trust, use or otherwise possess, purchase, acquire by gift, bequest, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property – real estate or chattel – as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Tenets of Faith shall be the same as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VI. ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

There are two ordinances of the church: Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They will be administered in accordance with the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in BAG shall be available to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, actively embrace the church's Tenets of Faith, agree to be governed by BAG's Constitution, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who meet the following requirements...

1) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- a) An open confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- b) The ordinance of Water Baptism prior to membership, and a willingness to participate regularly in the Lord's Supper thereafter.
- c) Partnership in instructional classes prior membership.
- d) An agreement to contribute regularly to the support of BAG through giving willingly of time, treasure, and talent. Members are further expected to identify and utilize their spiritual gifts, both within and without the congregation.
- e) Participation in tithing (giving ten percent of one's income) to this church, along with supplemental offerings and alms.
- f) Regular partnership in the weekly services and gatherings of the church.
- g) Agreement with the terms of the Membership Covenant as determined by the Leadership Council.

2) RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

- a) Persons desiring to become members of BAG shall make their desire known to the Senior Pastor (also known as the Lead Pastor) or his designate.

- b) The Senior Pastor, or his designate, shall present applications for membership to the Leadership Council, who shall then review all applications and render a final decision.
- c) Believers who have met the membership requirements and have been approved by the Leadership Council shall be received into membership at a public service.
- d) Thereafter their names shall be added to the membership roster, with all rights and privileges accorded at that time becoming effective immediately.

3) VOTING PRIVILEGES

The active members have voting rights at all regular or specially called Church Council Meetings. However, voting by proxy is not allowed.

4) TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

a) Outbound Transfer

Members who wish to be transferred to another congregation may apply to the Senior Pastor for a transfer letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the Leadership Council. The transfer letter shall then be signed by the Senior Pastor or the corporate Secretary.

b) Inbound Transfer

People desiring to transfer membership from another congregation to BAG may do so, but must follow the procedures and guidelines of Article VII, sections 1 and 2.

5) MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The Leadership Council is authorized to review and revise the membership roster periodically. Members who have moved from the community, severed their relationship with the church, or have consistently neglected to partner in church life as agreed to by the membership covenant are subject to being removed from the roster or placed on inactive status.

6) INACTIVE STATUS

Members may be placed on the inactive roll if they have moved away temporarily, are serving in missions, or are under discipline. Those members may be restored to full membership by action of the Leadership Council.

7) DISCIPLINE

- a) Any member of BAG who is charged with unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this congregation may be temporarily suspended from active membership pending investigation and final decision by the Leadership Council.
- b) All decisions issued will be rendered based on Scriptures that are applicable to church discipline.
- c) The investigation will be conducted within sixty days, although an extension may be granted based on good cause by the Leadership Council.
- d) If a Member is removed for cause, the Senior Pastor or corporate Secretary shall give the individual written notice of the action of the Leadership Council.
- e) A member so charged may make an appeal to the Leadership Council. The result of the appeal will be considered to be the final determination.

8) ANNUAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Members shall reaffirm their membership covenant annually in writing, by acknowledging their support of the membership covenant during the previous year and agreeing to do the same during the year to come. Reaffirmations will coincide with the calendar year.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH LEADERSHIP

1) LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- a) The spiritual and legal leadership of BAG under the headship of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit, is vested in the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Deacons, all of whom shall be elected or ratified as elsewhere defined.
- b) These three entities shall constitute the chief governing body of the church, known as the Leadership Council, which shall also serve as the Board of Directors.
- c) The Senior Pastor shall serve as Chairman of the Board and as President of the Corporation.
- d) The Leadership Council is responsible for providing spiritual guidance for the congregation, directing church business, and giving general governance to all aspects of ministry, temporal and spiritual.

- e) Inasmuch as is possible, there shall be an equal number of Elders and Deacons.
- f) All Leadership Council members and Pastors shall be in agreement with the doctrinal position of BAG and will meet the leadership requirements given in the New Testament (1Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1Pt 5:1-4). They shall be full of the Holy Spirit with accompanying evidences (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4), or shall be seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit with accompanying evidences (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4), plus demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in daily living (Gal 5:22-26).
- g) In no case will there be less than five or more than ten people on the Leadership Council, not including the Senior Pastor, who serves on the Leadership Council by virtue of office.

2) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Committee will operate under the authority of the Leadership Council.
- b) The Executive Committee will function in matters of oversight and management of church affairs in ad-hoc matters when it is impractical to call a meeting of the Leadership Council or in cases of emergency.
- c) The Executive Committee will keep a written record of all actions taken, and will report all of its proceedings to the Leadership Council.

3) SENIOR PASTOR (LEAD PASTOR)

The Senior Pastor (also known as the Lead Pastor) shall provide primary oversight, guidance, and leadership for the church, and is designated by Scripture as the temporal leader of the church under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

a) Qualifications:

The Senior Pastor must be an ordained or licensed minister of and in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The Senior Pastor shall comply with Scriptural ministry standards, have prior pastoral experience, and evidence a willingness to develop and pursue the goals and objectives of this congregation.

b) Duties

- i) The Senior Pastor shall be Chairman of the Leadership Council and Corporate President and will be and ex-officio member of all committees, task forces, and departments.
- ii) As Chairman of the Leadership Council, the Senior Pastor will officiate at all Leadership meetings except when unable to attend, in which case the Vice Chairman will preside.
- iii) The Senior Pastor will be responsible for all services and special meetings. No person will be invited to speak or preach in the church without his full approval.
- iv) The Senior Pastor will select and lead the church staff and employees.
- v) The Senior Pastor shall carry out such duties as may be assigned by the Leadership Council, with his advice and consent.

c) Election

- i) In the event of a pastoral vacancy, an Interim Senior Pastor may be appointed by the existing Leadership Council.
- ii) In the event of a pastoral vacancy, the Leadership Council will serve as the Pulpit Committee with the Vice Chairman functioning as the committee leader. Additional members may be asked to serve on the Pulpit Committee, with such appointment being made by the Leadership Council.
- iii) The Leadership Council, functioning as the Pulpit Committee, will actively and prayerfully interview qualified candidates. Candidates who satisfy the pastoral qualifications and receive approval from at least three-fourths of the Leadership Council may be presented to the church for prayerful consideration.
- iv) Election for the Senior Pastor will be by secret ballot at any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for a valid election.

d) Term of Office

The Senior Pastor shall be elected to serve indefinitely subject to resignation or removal.

e) Resignation

The Senior Pastor is requested to give 60 days notice to the church upon resignation. This time span may be shortened or extended by mutual consent of the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Council.

f) Removal

i) The Senior Pastor may be removed by action of the members of BAG.

(1) A written complaint regarding serious misconduct must be submitted to the Leadership Council by at least two or three non-related witnesses. It shall be signed by the complainants, who must be willing to meet with the Leadership Council to document the charges.

(2) The Senior Pastor shall have the right to meet with his complainants and the Leadership Council to answer the charges.

(3) The Leadership Council shall consider the complaint, and if it is found to be valid, the Leadership Council shall present the complaint to the membership after receiving a two-thirds Leadership Council vote to do so.

(4) A complaint that would result in the removal of the Senior Pastor from his position must be supported by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at the Church Council Meeting.

(5) A District Official of the Assemblies of God shall be invited to preside over this meeting. The Senior Pastor will not be considered removed from office without the advice and consent of the Southern New England District Council.

(6) In the event of removal by such action, the Senior Pastor will be relieved of all pastoral responsibilities. He will then be given a reasonable time in which to arrange his personal affairs and transition from the position, unless the charges affect his credential status, in which case the District Council will make the determination.

ii) The Senior Pastor may be removed by action of the Leadership Council.

(1) The Leadership Council shall be empowered to recommend the removal of the Senior Pastor upon proven charges of a serious nature such as, but not limited to, immoral conduct, radical departure from the Tenets of Faith, or failure to meet the qualifications of Senior Pastor as set forth in

the Constitution. A two-thirds Council vote is required for such a recommendation.

(2) In the event of such action, the Senior Pastor will be relieved of all pastoral responsibilities pending further investigation. The Senior Pastor will then be given a reasonable time in which to arrange his personal affairs and transition from the position. The length of this time will be decided upon mutual consent of the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Council, unless the charges have to do with credential status, in which case the District Council will make the determination.

(3) The advice and the assistance of the District Officiary of the Assemblies of God will be sought when serious charges are brought against the Senior Pastor. In such a case, the District Officers shall be invited to meet with the BAG Leadership Council to hear the charges and advise in the disposition of the case. The Senior Pastor will not be considered removed from office without the advice and consent of the Southern New England District Council.

4) ELDERS

a) Qualifications:

- i) Elders are men or women who meet the Scriptural qualifications outlined in Article VIII.
- ii) Elders must be active members for at least three years prior to appointment.
- iii) Elders must be at least thirty years of age.
- iv) With the exception of the Senior Pastor, who serves by virtue of office, elders cannot be staff members or among those in the regular employ of the church.

b) Duties

- i) Elders shall set an example before the congregation of BAG by their godly lives.
- ii) Elders will be full voting members of the Leadership Council.
- iii) Elders will minister to the church according to standards set forth in the New Testament.

iv) Elders will carry out duties as defined elsewhere in this Constitution.

c) Appointment

i) Sixty days prior to any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting, the Leadership Council shall convene to prayerfully identify nominees for the Eldership. Members shall be nominated and approved by the Leadership Council with the full consent of the Senior Pastor.

ii) Eldership nominees and their spouses (where applicable) will be interviewed by the Senior Pastor and at least one other member of the Leadership Council. A positive interview will be followed by the church membership being notified of the same, no less than twenty-one days prior to any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting. Such notification will be made by first class mail, supplemented by both a public announcement and a public presentation of the candidates to the church body.

iii) A two-thirds majority of the members present at the Church Council Meeting will be required to constitute ratification. The newly ratified elder will begin service immediately.

iv) All nominees presented will be eligible for ratification.

d) Term of Office

i) Elders will be ratified to serve on the Leadership Council for a three-year term. Thereafter an Elder may succeed himself or herself for an additional term, after which one year off is mandatory.

ii) Elders shall be re-ratified by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting.

iii) Following a year off, an elder may be reappointed. The guidelines for reappointment are the same as for appointment.

e) Resignation or Removal

i) Elders may resign by tendering a letter of resignation to the Senior Pastor.

ii) Elders may be removed from their position for incompetence or misconduct. The Leadership Council will consider the charges and complaints, before rendering a remedial course of action.

iii) If an Elder is removed from office, the membership will be notified.

- iv) Procedures for discipline of an Elder will be the same as for members, as outlined in Article VII, Section 7.

5) DEACONS

a) Qualifications:

- i) Deacons may be men or women who meet all Scriptural qualifications as outlined in Article VIII.
- ii) Deacons must be active members for at least one year prior to nomination.
- iii) Deacons shall be at least twenty-five years of age.

b) Duties

- i) Deacons shall set an example before the congregation of BAG by their godly lives.
- ii) Deacons will be full voting members of the Leadership Council.
- iii) Deacons along with the Senior Pastor and Elders, will be custodians of BAG property, participate in ratifying and overseeing the church budget, and minister to the spiritual and fiscal health of the church.
- iv) The Deacons will carry out duties as defined elsewhere in this Constitution.

c) Election

- i) Opportunity will be given to church members to make nominations for the Deaconate, starting no less than sixty days prior to any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting.
- ii) The congregation will be given twenty-one days thereafter to make their nominations known. Nominees must come from the active slate of active members. Nominations will be submitted in writing to the Senior Pastor or any current member of the Leadership Council.
- iii) After twenty-one days have elapsed, the nominations will close. The Leadership Council will check the qualifications of all nominees against Scriptural and BAG guidelines.

- iv) Those meeting the basic qualifications will then be interviewed along with their spouses (where applicable) by the Senior Pastor and at least one other member of the Leadership Council.
- v) A positive interview will be followed by the church membership being notified of the same, no less than twenty-one days prior to any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting. Such notification will be made by first class mail, supplemented by both a public announcement and a public presentation of the candidates to the church body.
- vi) The nominees to the Deaconate shall be elected by secret ballot at any regular or specially called Church Council Meeting. A two-thirds vote will be required for a valid election. The newly elected Deacon will take office immediately.
- vii) All nominees presented will be eligible for election.

d) Term of Office

- i) Deacons shall serve for a period of two years.
- ii) Deacons may succeed themselves once. Thereafter at least one year must elapse prior to the possibility of reelection as a deacon.
- iii) A deacon may be presented and ratified as an elder immediately pursuant to serving as a deacon.

e) Resignation or Removal

- i) Deacons may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Senior Pastor.
- ii) Deacons may be removed from their position for incompetence or misconduct. The Leadership Council will consider the charges and complaints, before rendering a remedial course of action. If a Deacon is removed from office, the membership will be so notified.
- iii) Procedures for discipline of a Deacon will be the same as for members, as outlined in Article VII, Section 7.

6) OFFICERS

The four Officers will constitute the Executive Committee, with the Senior Pastor as Chairman. The Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected annually at

the April Leadership Council Meeting and will serve on the Executive Committee concurrently with their terms of office.

a) Chairman

The Senior Pastor will serve as Chairman of the Leadership Council. The Senior Pastor will also chair all Church Council Meetings unless unable to attend by voluntary delegation of the chair to the Vice Chairman.

b) Vice Chairman

i) Qualifications:

- (1) The Vice Chairman must be an Elder serving on the Leadership Council.
- (2) A minimum of one-year service on the Leadership Council is required prior to being considered for the office of Vice Chairman.
- (3) The Vice Chairman must not be closely related to any member of the pastoral or support staff of BAG.

ii) Duties

The Vice Chairman will preside over Leadership Council and Church Council Meetings in the absence of the Senior Pastor. Should there be a vacancy in the office of Senior Pastor, the Vice Chairman will be Chairman pro-tem and officiate at all Leadership Council and Church Council Meetings, even if an Interim Pastor is appointed.

iii) Election and Term of office

- (1) The BAG Leadership Council will elect a Vice Chairman from among its ranks, upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor. A majority vote will be required for election.
- (2) The Vice Chairman will serve a one-year term and will be eligible for re-election.
- (3) The election will take place at the first Leadership Council meeting after the Annual Church Council meeting.

c) Secretary

i) Qualifications:

- (1) The Secretary must be a member of the Leadership Council and may be either an Elder or Deacon.
- (2) The Secretary must not be closely related to any member of the pastoral or support staff of BAG.

ii) Duties

- (1) The Secretary will keep the minutes of all Leadership Council, Executive Meetings, and Church Council Meetings.
- (2) The Secretary shall ensure that the actions and resolutions of the Leadership Council are in compliance with this Constitution, and that all notices as required by the Constitution are given accordingly.
- (3) The Secretary, under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Council, will be responsible for all corporate records, which shall be housed on church property.

iii) Election and Term of office

- (1) The Leadership Council will elect a Secretary from among its ranks, upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor.
- (2) The Secretary will serve a one-year term and will be eligible for re-election. A majority vote will be required for election.
- (3) The election will take place at the first Leadership Council meeting after the Annual Church Council meeting.

d) Treasurer

i) Qualifications:

- (1) The Treasurer must be a member of the Leadership Council, preferably a Deacon.
- (2) The Treasurer must not be closely related to any member of the pastoral or support staff of BAG.

(3) The Treasurer must have a good grasp of fiduciary matters.

ii) Duties

The Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining general supervision of church finances, subject to the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Council.

iii) Election and Term of Office

(1) The Leadership Council will elect a Treasurer from among its ranks, upon recommendation of the Senior Pastor.

(2) The Treasurer will serve a one-year term and will be eligible for re-election. A majority vote will be required for election.

(3) The election will take place at the first Leadership Council meeting after the Annual Church Council meeting.

7) Pastoral and Support Staff

a) Occasionally it will become necessary to add Associate or Assistant Pastors, and Administrative Staff to the ongoing ministry of BAG. They shall be appointed by and report to the Senior Pastor.

b) Full time staff pastors will be appointed by the Senior Pastor, with the advice and consent of the Leadership Council.

c) All Ministerial and Support Staff will be or shall become members of BAG. (Exceptions may be granted in cases where personnel are performing portfolios not requiring membership).

d) BAG reserves the right to ordain, recognize, and appoint Ministers, with the standards and procedures pertaining to such ordination being established by the Leadership Council.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

1) CHURCH SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS

Regular meetings and gatherings for public worship will be held on weekends and throughout the week, as specified by the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Council.

2) CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

a) Annual Church Council Meeting

- i) The membership of BAG will have at least one annual Church Council Meeting, held in March of each year. BAG will operate fiscally on a calendar year, ending December 31. A report of business conducted during the preceding year will be part of the agenda at each Annual Church Council Meeting.
- ii) Notification of the Annual Business Meeting, both verbal and written, must be made a minimum of fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting, with all written notices will be mailed first class.
- iii) The attendance and participation of no less than one-fourth of all active members will be required to constitute a quorum for any business to be conducted.
- iv) All business is to be conducted under the authority of God's Word, the Holy Bible. A spirit of unity, though seasoned with diversity, is expected. Business will also be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. A Parliamentarian, appointed by the Leadership Council, may be consulted on points of order.

b) Specially Called Church Council Meetings

- i) Special Church Council Meetings of the Congregation may be called by either the Leadership Council or by membership petition. The Leadership Council may call a Special Church Meeting by the agreement of a majority of their number.
- ii) A Special Meeting called by the membership requires a signed petition of not less than one-fourth of all active members, such petition to be given either to the Chairman or the Secretary.
- iii) Specially called Church Council Meetings require written and verbal announcement to be made, a minimum of ten days prior to the date of the meeting, with written notices to be mailed first class supplemented by pulpit announcements of the same.
- iv) The only Business that may be conducted at a Specially Called Church Council Meeting is that which has been specified clearly beforehand. No new business may be added or considered beyond such parameters from the floor.

- v) The attendance and participation of no less than one-fourth of all active members will be required to constitute a quorum for any business to be conducted.
- vi) All business at such meetings is to be conducted under the authority of God's Word, the Holy Bible. A spirit of unity, though seasoned with diversity, is expected. Business will also be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. A Parliamentarian, appointed by the Leadership Council, may be consulted on points of order.

3) LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) The Leadership Council shall meet no less than quarterly to oversee the spiritual and fiscal needs of the congregation.
- b) The Senior Pastor shall call or approve all meetings of the Leadership Council.
- c) No official business of the Leadership Council may be conducted unless at least half of its members are present.
- d) In the willing absence of the Senior Pastor, the Vice Chairman shall officiate at any Leadership Council Meeting.

ARTICLE X. STANDING DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES, AND TASK FORCES

1) ESTABLISHMENT

Standing departments, committees, and task forces may be established by the Leadership Council in order to carry out the purposes of BAG. All standing departments and committees/task forces will be under the oversight of the Senior Pastor, with the advice and consent of the Leadership Council.

2) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF OFFICE

- a) The chairpersons and members of all standing committees or task forces will be appointed by the Senior Pastor, with the advice and consent of the Leadership Council.
- b) All standing committee or task force members must also be active members of BAG.

- c) All standing committee or task force members shall be appointed for one-year terms, unless indicated at the time of appointment. Reappointment can be made by the Senior Pastor, with the advice and consent of the Leadership Council.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES AND PROPERTY

1) FINANCES

The work and ministry of BAG shall be financed according to the scriptural plan, which is the tithes, offerings, and alms of its members and constituents. All funds shall be administered and disbursed under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Council.

2) FINANCIAL REVIEW

A year end review of church financial records shall be commissioned by the Leadership Council annually. An outside/independent Accountant or CPA shall examine the financial records thoroughly. The findings of said report will be distributed to the church membership at the Annual Church Council Meeting in March.

3) ANNUAL BUDGET

The Annual Church Budget for the coming year will be established and approved by the Leadership Council, then made available in writing to the church membership, no later than December 15th annually.

4) INCORPORATION

BAG shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts.

5) REAL PROPERTY

All real property of BAG shall be deeded to the church and held in its name.

6) DISSOLUTION AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

In the event that BAG ceases to function as a church, then the property, real or personal, along with all liabilities, shall be given to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion. In the event of the sale of the property of

BAG by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived shall be used by the General Council in furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

1) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any voting member, providing the proposed amendment is approved by the majority of the Leadership Council. Proposed amendments must be made in writing and should be submitted to the Chairman or the Secretary. Notification of any proposed amendment will be given to the congregation no less than fourteen days prior to the Church Council Meeting at which it will be brought to the floor.

2) PETITION

If the Leadership Council rejects a proposed amendment, a petition bearing the signatures of one-fourth of the voting members may be presented back to the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council shall then present the proposed amendment to the full membership at the next duly called Church Council Meeting.

3) Notification and Ratification

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of BAG who are in attendance at any Annual or Special Called Church Council Meeting.