

**INTER-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH OF GOD (ICOG)  
BY-LAWS**

The following are the by-laws of the **Inter-Denominational Church of God** as set forth by the By-Laws Committee with the review and approval of said by-laws by the Eldership and Board of Trustees of the **Inter-Denominational Church of God**.

## BY-LAWS

The laws of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** will always be those laws set forth in the Holy Bible. The church will make no laws but only execute the laws of God set forth in the Scripture.

### **I. NAME**

The name of the church shall be the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God**. The church shall always remain an independent Church. The government of the church is vested in its members. The membership, under the guidance of the Eldership of the Church, retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of its life and organization. While it is important and necessary to serve the whole body of Christ, the major responsibility of the Church will be towards its own members and then spread abroad.

The primary colors of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** shall be blue and white.

### **II. BUSINESS LOCATION**

The address of the principal office of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** is: 19201 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879.

### **III. VISION, MISSION, BELIEFS, and TAX STATUS**

The **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** is a Christian Church seeking and saving those who are lost. We are a place where people can come out of the storm, find rest and experience the transforming power of God for the expansion of His Kingdom worldwide.

The mission of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God**: In order to fulfill the Great Commission as expressed in Matthew 28:19-20, The **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** exists to **INTRODUCE** people to Jesus Christ, **INSTRUCT** them to grow in faith, **INVOLVE** them with other Christians, **INCLUDE** them in serving others, and **INSPIRE** them to worship God with their lives.

## IV. TENETS OF FAITH

### *We Believe in....*

**THE SCRIPTURES** – The Holy Bible is the infallible Word of God, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and is therefore without error and is eternally reliable in all matters of Christian faith and practice. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21) The Scriptures shall not be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition or revelation. All the Scriptures are to be interpreted in their context and purpose. (Jas. 1:21; Mk.7:9, 13:2; I Cor. 4:2; 2 Peter 3:16; Gal. 3:15, 22; Rev. 22:18,19)

### *We Believe in....*

**THE GODHEAD** – Our God is the only true God and is one, but manifested in spirit as three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, being coequal. (Deut. 6:4; Phil. 2:6)

### *We Believe in....*

**THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** – The Savior of fallen man, is the only begotten Son of God, the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, made fully God and fully man in the incarnation, whose death and resurrection for our sins is our only hope of salvation of spirit, mind and body in this life and in the world to come. (Luke 1:35; 19:10; John 1:1, 14, 18; 8:58; 10:10,28)

### *We Believe that....*

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** operates as the unlimited and invisible presence of Jesus Christ on earth as Comforter and Advocate, indwelling every born-again believer and making the believer's body His temple. He convicts of sin, draws the sinner to Christ, and inspires faith in Him to repent of sin and believe within his heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and to confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is his personal Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit operates in all believers in the power of the gifts of the Spirit, manifesting them as He wills for Christian service and ministry for the winning of souls, healing of the sick, revelation knowledge, and the working of signs and wonders and miracles as a witness to this generation that God is God and is present in the NOW to deliver lost and suffering humanity, and to prepare them to be the Bride of Christ as His personal bodily return. (Acts 2:33, 38: 5:3,4; Rom. 8:11, 14, 26-28; 10:9,10: 1 Cor. 12:3-11)

***We Believe the following about....***

**MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION** - Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. The Bible says "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," and "...There is none righteous, no not one." (Rom. 3:10-3:23). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God. (Rom. 5:14; 1 John 3:8)

***We Believe that....***

**SALVATION** is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God. (Luke 1:77; 19:9; Acts 4:12; Rom. 1:16; 10:8-13; Eph. 2: 8-10)

***We Believe the following about....***

**ETERNAL LIFE AND THE NEW BIRTH** - Man's first step toward salvation is Godly sorrow that worketh repentance. The New Birth is necessary to all men, and when experienced, produces eternal life (Cor. 7:11; John 3:3-5; 1 John 5:12). There is a heaven as the reward of the believer beyond death, including a bodily resurrection from the dead. Likewise, there is a hell as the reward of the unbeliever beyond death, including a bodily resurrection to live in everlasting torment and separation from God. (Matt. 5:12; 18:3; 5:29; 23:33; John 3:5)

***We Believe and Practice these Two Ordinances....***

**WATER BAPTISM** – This Baptism is by immersion after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation. Baptism is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39)

**HOLY COMMUNION** – The Lord's Supper as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death on the cross for our salvation. (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11: 23-34)

*We Believe that the ....*

**BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST** is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the new birth. The initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is ‘speaking in tongues’ as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance. It empowers believers for witnessing and effective service. (Matt. 3:11; John 14:15, 17; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 2:38, 39)

*We Believe that....*

**SANCTIFICATION** initially occurs at salvation and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but is a progressive lifelong work of grace, separation from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ-like. (Heb. 12:14; 1Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 1:30)

*We Believe that....*

**THE GREAT COMMISSION** was given by Christ and is binding on every believer to “go into all the world and teach the gospel to every creature.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

*We Believe the following about....*

**TITHES, OFFERINGS AND ALMS** - God is the Lord of all including time, talent and treasure (money.) God instituted corporate worship and the corporate execution of His work on Earth. God chose to adequately fund His work through the tithe (10% of one's income) and God clearly expresses that this portion belongs to Him. Jesus confirmed tithing as an important matter and we believe the blessing of tithing is still very real. In addition to tithing, we believe that the free will giving of offerings and alms are essential to caring for those in need. Giving is a spiritual matter that is a necessary component of the believer's growth. (Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3: 7-10; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-9)

*We Believe in....*

**THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST** – Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and returned to the right hand of the Father. Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. Jesus will personally return to Earth and consummate the Kingdom of God and will restore everything to order as He originally intended and promised in the Holy Scriptures. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on earth. *‘And so shall we*

*forever be with the Lord!* (Matthew 24:42-44; Acts 1:6-11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelations 11:15; 21)

***We Believe the following about....***

**MARRIAGE** - Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the scriptures. This Church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this Church, its pastors, staff and members will not participate in same sex unions or same sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes. (Gen. 2:21-25; Matt. 19:3-9)

***We Believe the following about....***

**HUMAN SEXUALITY** - The Bible teaches that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, this Church opposes all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. (Rom. 1:18-32; Hebrews 13:4)

## **V. TAX EXEMPTION AND POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT**

**Tax Exemption** – The **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes listed below, as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (hereinafter the “Code”), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. This includes but is not limited to:

- Evangelizing the unsaved by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Sending missionaries and maintaining missionary endeavors in the United States and any foreign country
- Establishing and maintaining Christian training schools including all levels of education, including but not limited to, pre-schools, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, Bible training schools, or any other schools which may be deemed necessary.
- Ordaining and licensing ministers of the gospel to carry on the purposes of the church.
- Establishing and maintaining charitable institutions, including but not limited to, the building of churches, radio stations, television stations, camps, or any other institutions, which may be deemed necessary.

**Political Involvement** – No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except to the extent permissible under Section 501 (h) of the Code. The Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

## VI. TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** is hereby designated as the Director of the Corporation as the term is defined and used in the State of Maryland nonprofit Corporate Code.

- The financial support of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** shall be consistent with that set forth in 2 Cor. 8-9, which teaches that the support of the church is to come from a voluntary contribution of material goods in proportion as the Lord has prospered, and other methods of support must be approved in advance by Board of Trustees and Eldership.
- It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to act as legal representatives of the church and to take such actions and execute any document necessary to accomplish the purpose of any matter which concerns any real, person, or intangible property of the church.
- The Board of Trustees will oversee and cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct books and records of accounts of the church. They shall also oversee the reception and distribution of funds. They shall also render a written report of these accounts at the quarterly church business meeting.
- It will be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to have these reports audited annually by an approved auditing firm selected by said Board of Trustees.
- When it is time to add a new Trustee to hold trust the property of the church, said Trustee shall be selected by existing Board of Trustees with the approval of the Eldership.
- The Board of Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** without at least a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the church authorizing each action.

- The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for seeing that the offerings are properly received, counted, and deposited in the church's bank accounts. They shall properly credit each contributor and their offerings. In accordance with current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax law, they shall be responsible for preparing and distributing an annual record of contributions to donors for tax purposes.
- The Board of Trustees shall have the responsibility to employ staff for the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** (excluding Hope Child Care Center and Pastors). A written job description and mutual contract/agreement will be prepared when the need for church staff is determined.
- The Board of Trustees shall be responsible in matters of properties administration. Throughout the year, the Trustees shall give attention to and study the condition and state of repair and appearance of the building and grounds of the church and equipment therein, making arrangements for repairs and improvements included in the church budget. All matters of major repairs, changes, improvements or items of equipment not included in the budget shall be referred to Board of Trustees and Eldership for fiscal review.
- The fiscal year of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** shall begin on January 1, and end on December 31.
- For each new fiscal year The Board of Trustees shall draw up and submit to the head of each church ministry an annual budget. The Board of Trustees shall work collaboratively with the Eldership to ensure that funds are being aligned and distributed effectively to enhance specific strategic ministry objectives and goals.
- No department or committee of the church shall have a separate treasury from the church treasury which is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. ICOG programs shall be conducted as worship services with no charge for admission.
- Throughout the year, the heads of each Ministry are encouraged to provide the Board of Trustees with suggestions regarding the annual budget. Near the end of each fiscal year the Board of Trustees, will begin preparing a budget for the next year. The Board of Trustees will publish a draft budget. Heads of Ministries should provide written comments or suggestions regarding their part of the draft budget. During one of the quarterly Church business meetings the Board of Trustees will discuss the draft budget.
- Following the quarterly Church business meeting discussed in item 12 above, the Board of Trustees will hold its own meeting to evaluate



comments and suggestions made at Church business meetings regarding proposed annual budgets. The Board of Trustees may modify the draft as a result of reviewing input prior to adopting the budget, however the Board of Trustees is not required to hold another informational meeting for the Church. Upon unanimous agreement by the Board of Trustees and the Eldership, the Board of Trustees shall adopt the annual budget. The Board of Trustees will then publish the official annual budget and make copies available to the heads of Ministries.

- The **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** is not organized for profit. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the church, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, all assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever shall be paid over and transferred at the direction of the Board of Trustees to a growing Christian Church that will continue the Christian mission.

## **VII. SPIRITUAL OFFICERS, SELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

All Church officers must be members of the Church in good standing. The only spiritual officers in the church (as per Scripture) shall be:

- Minister (includes Pastors and Elders)
- Deacon (Deacons/Deaconesses)

Qualifications of Ministers and Deacon/Deaconesses shall be found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

### **Minister (Pastor and Eldership)**

Pastor and Eldership (Ordained) shall be willing to be led by the dictates of God and not by their own or the peoples' will.

#### **A. Senior Pastor and Eldership**

- The qualifications for the Senior Pastor and Eldership shall be consistent with those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Their training, skills, and experiences are needed in this area of leadership.
- The responsibility of the Senior Pastor and the Eldership generally fall into the areas: preaching, teaching, pastoral counseling, administration, planning, and guiding the church to grow and fulfill its purposes. All answers and counseling for problems shall be based on Scripture.

- The Senior Pastor and the Eldership shall lead the church, the organization, and all officers of the church in performing their tasks in worship, proclamation, education, and evangelism. (The Eldership will have the task of securing speakers in times of the Senior Pastor's absence.)
- The Senior Pastor, or a selected representative from the Eldership, shall be an ex-officio member of all church standing committees/ministries, excluding the selection committee for a Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor and the Eldership shall handle no monies and have no authority to sign any church checks.
- A Senior Pastor shall be chosen and called whenever a vacancy occurs:
  - The chairperson(s) of the Deacon/Deaconess Board along with any committee member they choose shall present a Minister choice to the church body. They will only recommend one candidate at a time.
  - The selection of a Senior Pastor shall take place at a special meeting called for that purpose, in which at least two weeks notice shall be given to the church body.
  - At least a two-thirds majority affirmative vote, of those present at this special meeting, is necessary to confirm the selection of a new Senior Pastor.
  - The chosen Senior Pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by either his request or that of the church. In either case, at least sixty days notice shall be given unless otherwise mutually agreed.
  - There shall be a written mutual contract/agreement made between the Senior Pastor and the church.
- The decision to ordain a licensed Minister is the responsibility of the Senior Pastor and the Eldership. After ordination, the newly ordained Minister will become part of the Eldership.

#### B. Ministerial Staff (Licensed Ministers)

- The Ministerial staff consists of individuals who have been licensed and designated to preach the Word of God within the local fellowship and in the community at large.
- The licensed Ministerial staff also serve the local fellowship as mature leaders in various areas of Ministry as designated by the Senior Pastor and the Eldership.

- It is the responsibility of the Senior Pastor and Eldership to determine, based on Scripture, who qualifies to be a licensed minister and to take the qualifying individual(s) through the licensing process.
- It is the responsibility of the Senior Pastor and Eldership to oversee the training, development and utilization of the licensed ministerial staff.
- Licensed ministers serve as long as they remain biblically qualified and are capable of fulfilling the duties outlined by the Pastor, Eldership and the church. A licensed minister may resign from active service at any time with the full blessing of the local church body.

### **Deacon (Deacons/Deaconesses)**

- **General Expectations** – A Deacon/Deaconess shall demonstrate an exemplary Christian testimony in private, family, and public life; be a committed Christian leader and partner of the Eldership as well as a supporter and promoter of the church faith, practice, programs, and ministries. Here at ICOG, Deacons/Deaconesses are to first serve the Eldership/Ministers and become intimately acquainted with the VISION that God has given the leadership for this people. The Deacons/Deaconesses strive to develop transparent relationships one with another unified in the direction(s) that God is leading us. It is only from this position and relationship that deacon/nesses can then effectively serve and meet the specific needs of our church family. Here at ICOG, we envision the ministry of a Deacon/Deaconess to be the extension of the Eldership. They are to serve the family with vision, love, and concern, to the effect that each member would grow in grace and maturity in Christ Jesus.
- **Functional Expectations** - All Deacons/Deaconesses need to be spiritually equipped, as well as, physically present, available and willing to:
  - Lead unbelievers to Christ
  - Facilitate Prayer Meeting
  - Minister to those in physical and spiritual need. (members & non members alike)
  - Facilitate the operations of the church, by assisting members and other ministers with their daily/weekly church related needs.
  - Serve Communion and Minister to the Sick and Shut-ins
  - Assist the Ministers in conducting various services and special events (e.g. worship service, funerals, weddings, etc...)
  - Teach the Baptismal Class

- Selection – In the Word of God (Acts 6), the early church was commended by the Apostles to look amongst themselves for men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to handle the daily administration of the church. While the title of Deacon/Deaconess was not mentioned here, the need for servants to fill the Spiritual Office was established. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul provides Timothy with additional qualifications to look for when selecting Deacon/Deaconesses for this Spiritual Office. There is no minimum or maximum number of Godly men and women that may serve as Deacons/Deaconesses and the number will be determined by the needs of the body and eligible candidates for such office.
- Term of Service - There is no minimum or maximum time specified for Deacon/Deaconesses to serve in this office. The Eldership and Heads of the Deacon/Deaconess Ministry have the right to determine when and if there is going to be a specific time period for serving in this office. The Eldership also has the responsibility to evaluate the performance of the members of the Deacon/ness Ministry in relation to the qualifications of this office.

## **VIII. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Church Membership**

- General Qualifications: Membership of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God (ICOG)** shall consist of people who:
  - have made a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
  - have been baptized by immersion
  - are in agreement with the Tenets of Faith
  - have completed the ICOG Membership Class
  - have received the Right Hand of Fellowship

- Membership Commitment:

**I Will Protect the Unity of My Church**

- ...By acting in love toward other members
- ...By refusing to gossip
- ...By following the leaders

**I Will Share the Responsibility of My Church**

- ...By praying for its growth
- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit

**I Will Serve the Ministry of My Church**

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped to serve
- ...By developing a servant's heart

**I Will Support the Testimony of My Church**

- ...By attending faithfully
- ...By living a godly life
- ...By giving regularly

- An active member, or member in good standing, regularly attends Sunday worship Service, and at least one of the following:
  - Sunday School
  - Bible Study
  - Prayer meeting

and participates in the work of God and the ministries at ICOG

1. Privileges of Membership for Active Members:

- Participating in the leadership of the ministries at ICOG
- One (1) vote at all church meetings (16 years of age and above)
- Burial assistance (amounts shall be set under the direction of the Board of Trustees)
- Use of the Tide-Over fund "Interest Free Loan" Program
- ICOG College Scholarship fund
- "Low/No-Cost" building usage (depends on type of usage)

- Membership in ICOG is an important decision and requires a strong commitment. By becoming a member each person agrees to be subject not only to the Lord Jesus Christ, but also to the authority of the church (i.e., Eldership.) Because of the importance of this relationship, members should discuss with an Elder any decision to voluntarily terminate membership. Termination of membership may also be involuntary, (i.e., the result of church discipline).
- Inactive Membership
  - If a member is absent from the church for a period of 3 months, the member shall be deemed inactive unless or until the Eldership determines the absence has been warranted due to extenuating circumstances.
  - An inactive member no longer has any of the privileges of membership (i.e., Death benefits, voting privileges, etc.)
  - The church secretary will verify members that have been changed to inactive status. If a person is not clearly active, they will be treated as inactive when it comes to membership benefits
  - The church reserves the right to provide benefits to those in need as the Eldership and Trustee Board deem appropriate.
- Inactive to Active Membership
  - An inactive member may become active:
    - If the Eldership determines the absence has been warranted due to extenuating circumstances, or
    - The member recommits themselves to the church by public profession and at the discretion of the Eldership (attendance in some type of Bible instruction may be required)
- Maintenance of Membership Data
  - Membership will be maintained yearly, at which point inactive members will be flagged in the church database and information given to the church secretary who will inform the Eldership.

## **IX. CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION POLICIES:**

### **Member Spiritual Conflict Situations And Church Corrective Responses**

The **Inter-Denominational Church of God (ICOG)** disciplinary and restoration policies adhere to the desires of Jesus Christ that the church be pure. Christ gave Himself to redeem us from all iniquity, to purify us unto Himself as a peculiar people. (Titus 2:14.

ICOG's policies cover seven (7) member spiritual conflict situations. The church's responses in each of the conflict situations are scriptural and designed to be self-cleansing mechanisms with the goal of both personal righteousness and public restoration for the individual member in spiritual conflict. All answers and counseling for problems shall be based on Scripture.

### **Spiritual Conflict Situations and Responses**

#### 1) Personal Conflict

This sin involves a personal trespass where one member has a irreconcilable dispute with another member. The initial church response is to facilitate an in person confrontation for just the two members. (Matt. 18:15-17) If the matter is not resolved, the offended member may begin bringing 2 or 3 others into the situation and a second confrontation is arranged. If the matter is not resolved, the offended member is to take the matter to the Eldership of the church. (Matt. 18:17). If the offending member neglects to repent and hear the Eldership, he/she may be dealt with appropriately regarding obstinacy.

#### 2) Commonly Reported Gross Spiritual Conflict (I Cor. 5:1)

These are public sins that will be dealt with decisively: fornication, covetousness, idolatry, railing, drunkenness, and extortion. (I Cor. 5:11) Members exhibiting these spiritual conflicts will be warned and instructed in righteousness. If the person continues in sin, they will then be removed from the ICOG assembly immediately. (I Cor. 5: 2 & 13) The minimum goal is to preserve the spirit of the offender (I Cor. 5:5) while retaining the prayerful focus of repentance by the offender, with forgiveness and the confirming of love by the church.

#### 3) Disorderly Conduct (II Thess. 3)

In this situation the member has been given Biblical instruction on how to live the Christian life honorably but disobeyed. (II Thess. 3: 6, 12-14) Those who walk disorderly by failing to work, becoming busy bodies instead, will be commanded and urged against going about as useless busybodies and to settle

down and work to earn the bread they eat. (II Thess. 3:12) Those who are blatantly disobeying the Word of God will be removed from fellowship. (II Thess. 3: 6, 14)

4) Opposition of Self (II Tim. 2:24-26)

This spiritual conflict involves the rejection of truth by a member. The church goal is to bring the guilty member to a point of repentance so that they will come to their senses and acknowledge the truth. The church will teach him/her the truth.

5) Overtaken in a Fault (Gal. 6:1)

This spiritual conflict occurs when a member is drawn into sin by the influence of others. The church will restore a member in this situation with a meek and cautious attitude.

6) Elders in Spiritual Conflict (I Tim. 5:19-20)

Accusations against Elders who sin cannot be entertained unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Elders who are found sinning will be rebuked in front of the entire church.

7) Heretics (Titus 3:10)

Spiritual conflict occurs when a member adopts a different doctrinal viewpoint and thus causes confusion or division in the church. The church will give the heretic member two admonitions before he/she is rejected, or ejected from the ICOG fellowship.

## **X. AMENDMENTS**

The by-laws of the **Inter-Denominational Church Of God** may be amended provided the proposed amendment shall not violate the doctrinal statement or the amended Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Maryland. The amendment must be presented in writing at a regular church business meeting and then circulated to the membership. Amendments to these by-laws shall be passed by having at least a two-thirds affirmative vote of members of the church who are qualified to vote and are present in the business meeting with a quorum to discuss and vote for this matter. A copy of these by-laws will be provided to any member upon request.