



Parklawn
Assembly of God

PAOG Bylaw

Additions: Article IV

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING PACKET

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SENIOR PASTOR | PARKLAWN ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rationale: The General Council of the Assemblies of God has established core biblical doctrine that must be embraced, taught, and promoted among credentialed ministers and ministries in the fellowship. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is essential, we believe, for the proper proclamation of the gospel message, and are contained in Article IV of the Parklawn Assembly of God (PAOG) Constitution and Bylaws. In addition to these more broadly agreed upon truths, we recognize the need to feature language in the PAOG Constitution and Bylaws that addresses socio-cultural issues and matters of human behavior specific to our local context and further undergirds the vision and mission given to PAOG by God. Still further, we deem it necessary to express clear dispositions regarding subjects that are commonly discussed throughout societal sectors; subjects that are critical to the well-being of all people, and subjects that breach the law of God and hinder the advancement of His kingdom in the earth.

To this end, PAOG Senior Leadership and its Elder Board, has proposed that we clearly articulate our belief in and commitment to the full expression of apostolic and prophetic ministry in respect to the vision of Parklawn, as the Lord has in the last several years unveiled more of His intention and assignment for Parklawn. Additionally, we propose that we clearly articulate our beliefs and position in relation to matters of human behavior and social interaction that have potential to significantly benefit or have a harmful impact on individuals, families, communities, cities, and nations. Such matters are encapsulated below.

- 1. Apostolic Ministry.** Apostolic Ministry is mentioned more in the New Testament than Pastoral Ministry. We believe that the ministry gift of the Apostle is as vital in the body of Christ as Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist, and Prophet (Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:28; and II Corinthians 11:13). Apostles speak as the Lord and critically provide leadership and service to the body of Christ. Apostolic functions include but are not limited to the following: impartation, mobilization, bring order and government, ordain, judge, pioneer, train, enforce, oversee, reform, build, and share revelation. Apostles and apostolic people are “sent ones”. They are emissaries anointed and empowered to convert people and influence territories with kingdom culture. Apostles are part of the foundation upon which the church is founded and built, with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). In tandem with prophets, they bring balance to the church, prioritize God’s covenant, and help the church maintain a missional focus.
- 2. Prophetic Ministry.** We believe that the ministry gift of the Prophet is vital to the body of Christ, and that he gave some, apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints (Ephesians 4:11-12a; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Amos 3:7). Prophets speak for God. They provide direction. Prophets are concerned with God’s way, conveying it, and helping to restore persons to God’s way when they deviate. Prophetic functions include but are not limited to impartation, proclamation, release, correction, building, activation, prophecy, deliverance, watering, planting, worship, and vision. Prophetic people are capable of hearing God’s voice and responding. Prophets are part of the foundation upon which the church is founded and built, with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). In tandem with apostles, they bring balance to the church, prioritize God’s covenant, and help the church maintain a missional focus.

- 3. Total Prosperity.** We believe that God’s covenant is an everlasting covenant (Genesis 17:7; 2 Samuel 23:5). We believe that this covenant features promises of prosperity that include, but is by no means limited to material gain. Some examples of material increase can be observed in the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Gen. 30:43), and Solomon (1 Kings 4:30-33). We also believe that prosperity, increase, and flourishing is holistic and addresses the total person. Hence, we promote the concept of total prosperity that affects multiple areas: spiritual; mental; physical; financial; social; emotional (John 3:3, 11; II Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10; II Tim. 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3; Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:17; I Peter 2:24; III John 1:2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Cor. 9:6-10; Deut. 28:1-14; Proverbs 3:4).
- 4. Obedience to Law.** We believe there is no law or authority higher than the Lord God. He is the Lawgiver, Judge, and King (Isaiah 33:22). He has established the framework for order and government in the earth. While every governmental and leadership regime may not be godly, we believe that it is godly, it is biblical to—in principle—honor and demonstrate obedience to the law. (Romans 13:1-2, TLB; 1 Peter 3; Romans 13:5-8, 11 (TLB). We understand that “legal” doesn’t always mean moral, just, or righteous. Hence, in those matters we will wed wisdom and faith, as guided by Holy Spirit, in order to decide on actions that best align with the counsel of God and His Kingdom.
- 5. Personal Ethics.** We believe that godly principles are important. Our motivations for leadership, service, and productivity are crucial and when wrongful can taint the purity and potency of our actions. Ethical behavior is expected among leaders and laypersons whether serving or receiving. This is critical for a healthy church community that honors the Lord and honors people (1 Cor. 6:12, TLB; Proverbs 16:2, TLB; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).
- 6. Smoking.** The human body is one of God’s most glorious creations. It houses the spirit of mankind and allows humans to function on earth. The human body should be respected. The body was made for the Lord and the Lord for the body (1 Corinthians 3:17). Each person is a steward of their body, their temple. Therefore, we believe that any personal or social behaviors and habits that harm the body or diminish an individual’s physical wellness are inappropriate and should be avoided. Smoking—the substance notwithstanding—is a behavior that has a deleterious effect on the body. It compromises good health and denies the promise of 3 John 2, “I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health as your soul prospers.” Additional scriptures (I Cor. 3:16-17; (I Cor. 6:19).
- 7. Drunkenness/Drugs.** Fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment as articulated by Jesus (Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 28:18-20) requires intentionality and focus. To this end, certain virtues are necessary such as compassion, kindness, love, and sobriety. Kingdom-believers should demonstrate temperance, calmness, and avoid excessiveness in speech or conduct. Above all, kingdom-believers are admonished to be influenced by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Lifestyle choices that welcome or require drunkenness, illegal drug use, or the abuse of prescription drugs render individuals vulnerable to influences other than the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we believe that it is prudent and biblical to refrain from consumption of substances that compromise sobriety and subsequently besmirch the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. Supportive scriptures

include, but are not limited to, (Deuteronomy 21:20-21 LB; Galatians 5:21 LB; Ephesians 5:18 LB; Proverbs 23:21).

8. Adultery/Fornication/Immorality. The holy scriptures are very clear on the sin of adultery, whether Old Testament or New Testament. God is against adultery, fornication, immorality. Each is indicative of a breach of covenant with God. God is a God of fidelity, holiness, purity, and truth. Behaviors and/or lifestyle choices that contribute to adulterous relationships and immoral living are unbiblical and should be avoided at all costs. Supportive scriptures include, but are not limited to the following, (Exodus 20:14; II Peter 2:14 LB; Matthew 5:27-28LB; I Cor. 6:9 LB; I Cor. 5:11 LB).

9. The Sacrament of Marriage. Parklawn Assembly of God recognizes Marriage as a sacred, Biblical Sacrament, which is constituted by a commitment and covenant, before God, of one biological man and one biological woman. Any other concept or mode of covenant between two or more persons, will not be recognized as Biblical or sound, and is rejected as anti-Biblical. **Parklawn Assembly of God** adheres strictly to Biblical principles opposing any description, regardless of social mores and folkways or governmental ordinances that are contrary to the Word of God, found as referenced herein; because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other and that no intimate sexual activity should occur outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Anything outside of that such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, attempts to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful, offensive to God, and is forbidden per the Word of God (Genesis 2:18, 20-24; Romans 1: 21-22, 24, 26 – 27; Matthew 19:4-6; I Corinthians 7:1-16). **Parklawn Assembly of God** will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Weddings and marriages outside those parameters will not be performed by church ministers or hosted on church property. We believe that to preserve the function and integrity of the Ministry as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Ministry members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Ministry in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by, and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. Additional supportive verses (Jeremiah 29:6; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Genesis 21:21; Genesis 29:21; 1 Corinthians 7:36, 39; Genesis 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:22-23, 25, 28-29, 31, 33).

Parklawn Assembly of God believes that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Ministry.

10. Family/Household. The family is the first institution created and ordained by God. It is the first ministry and should be the epicenter of the faith experience. All persons, especially kingdom-believers should abstain from language, behaviors, and/or lifestyle choices that nullify, subvert, or work to destroy God's purpose and plans for families. We recognize

that contemporary understandings of the term ‘family’ are fluid and evolving. Yet, we hold to biblical foundations for family. Supportive scriptures include, but are not limited to (Exodus 20:12; I Timothy 3:5; I Timothy 3:11 LB; Titus 1:6-7 LB; Titus 2:2-4; Ephesians 5:22-31, 33-6:4 LB).

11. Homosexuality. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person biologically as male or female (at birth), and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. **Parklawn Assembly of God** adheres strictly to Biblical principles opposing homosexuality, transsexuality bestiality pedophilia, adultery, pornography, and sexual immorality of any description, regardless of social mores and folkways or governmental ordinances. **Parklawn Assembly of God** is opposed to a homosexual lifestyle as being an alternative lifestyle, as it is contrary to the Holy Scriptures, God’s Will, and purpose for humanity. Supportive scriptures include, but are not limited to Romans 1:18 – 32 (KJV); I Corinthians 6:9; Leviticus 20:13; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-29; I Cor. 6:9-10.

12. The Sanctity of Life. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His Image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition of human life, from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalms 139, KJV) Thus, the Church, in accordance with Holy Scripture, recognizes the Sanctity of Life, and opposes abortion and euthanasia.

13. Ministry Properties and Facilities. All **Parklawn Assembly of God** properties are ultimately intended for the Glorification, Worship and honoring of God, and for the advancement of His Holy Purposes, including the blessing of the people of God, and the Ministry of the Gospel to those seeking and in need of His Love, Grace, and Redemption. **Parklawn Assembly of God** facilities were provided through God’s benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of **Parklawn Assembly of God** members. **Parklawn Assembly of God** desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice. **Parklawn Assembly of God** maintains the right to govern its own affairs, in accordance with the Word of God, and in alignment with the Statement of Fundamental Truths put forth by the General Council of the Assemblies of God Fellowship. Hence, the facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with Parklawn Assembly of God Tenet’s of faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the Ministry’s Bylaws and Holy Bible. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the Ministry’s beliefs would be material cooperation with the activity and would be a grave violation of Parklawn Assembly of God’s faith and religious practice. (II Corinthians 6:14; I Thessalonians 5:22)

Parklawn Assembly of God must present a consistent message to the community. It's critical that the Ministry staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to **Parklawn Assembly of God's** faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that **Parklawn Assembly of God** strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to the Ministry members and the community because that may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the Ministry agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities. Therefore, **Parklawn Assembly of God** may not be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the Ministry's faith or moral teachings. The Senior Pastor (President/CEO) or his official designee, is the final decision maker concerning use of **Parklawn Assembly of God** facilities.

Please note: Although questions will not be taken during the meeting, you will be able to submit your questions and will receive a written response. Questions can be submitted to **info@parklawnag.org** and you will receive a timely response.