

*the basics*

# our profile

*What makes us tick* ↙

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# **Assemblies of God Affiliation**

*Praise Family Church is incorporated as a non-profit organization with the responsibilities and privileges of a 501c3 organization.*

## **Relationship to the District and General Council**

Praise Family Church is a sovereign assembly meeting the requirements set forth in the Alabama District and General Council Constitution and By-Laws.

PFC is expected to faithfully cooperate with the District Council and General Council financial program.

PFC looks to the leadership of the District Council of the Assemblies of God for oversight and counsel concerning business affairs.

PFC honors the leadership of the District Council and the General Council with hospitality and gifts toward their individual and corporate care.

# The Sixteen Fundamentals

## Doctrine

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us, i.e., that we speak the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

### 1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

### 2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43: 10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

### 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

### 4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

## 5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

- Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

- The Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

## 6. The Ordinances of the Church

- Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

- Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements-bread and the fruit of the vine-is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy concerning his second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

## 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

## 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

## 9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; Romans 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:5).

## 10. The Church and Its Mission

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16).

- To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3, 4).
- Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14).
- Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

## 11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24), (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

## **12. Divine Healing**

Divine Healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matthew 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

## **13. The Blessed Hope**

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52).

## **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

## **15. The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

## **16. The New Heavens and The New Earth**

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

# Core Values

*These are the very basic things that we believe; those things that define who we are and how we operate. While this doesn't encompass our entire doctrinal belief system, this is a synopsis of those things that are at the core of how we operate, minister together and relate to each other and our world.*

- **The Word:** The Bible is our "rule for faith and practice." Everything we do, what we believe and the direction we take all must line up with God's Word.
- **Family:** Not only do we strive to minister to every member of every family, we also realize that we must operate as the family of God.
- **Sonship:** We choose to operate as "sons" of God, not as slaves, because "sons have a stake in the family business."
- **Excellence:** This is not defined as perfection; instead, we believe we should always do the very best we can with whatever we have.
- **Relevance:** We never compromise our message, but are always looking for new, culturally sensitive ways to relay it.

# Name

*The official name of this assembly is "Praise Family Church Assembly of God, Inc."*

## Official Incorporation

This church was originally incorporated as "Glad Tidings Assembly of God, Inc." However, in 1992, the name was changed to "Praise Assembly of God" but no official papers were ever filed to that effect. On September 20, 1998, the name was legally changed to "Praise Family Church Assembly of God, Inc."



# Advisory Board

*“ . . . Commit yourself to faithful men . . . ” 2 Timothy 2:2b*

## **The Role of the Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board serves as advisors to the Pastor. Their role is not to rule the ministry of the church nor to make “spiritual decisions” concerning the ministry of the church. They are not the Pastor’s “boss” nor do they “run the church.”

They will, however, be available for insight, wisdom and guidance concerning such issues as church business, official membership, major purchases, etc. This board functions to “hold up the hands” of the Pastor in these specific and related areas.

## **The Make-Up of the Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board will consist of the Pastor (who serves as the Chairman of the Board & Corporate President) and not less than two other people: one who serves as Secretary of the Board and the other who serves as the Treasurer.

An additional 2-3 individuals may be added to the Board as the church grows and as qualified, faithful persons are recognized and appointed. This action will be taken as is deemed necessary by the Pastor and the other Board members.

Board Members are appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Board. The term of service is dictated only by their consistent lifestyle and continued faithfulness to God and this Body. They will serve indefinitely, providing they “continue in godliness” and that they continue to wish to do so.

## **Qualifications for the Advisory Board**

The Bible will be our guide for all intents and purposes. A member of the Advisory Board is expected to live a life above reproach, to faithfully support the church (both in attendance and in giving), to work cooperatively with the Pastor and the other Board members, to support the vision, purposes and pursuits of the church, and to make every effort to be an example of godliness, both publicly and privately. Furthermore, the guidelines provided in the New Testament for church leadership should be followed. Examples to note are 1 Timothy 3; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5-9.

In the event that a member of the Advisory Board fails in the responsibilities as noted above, that person may be removed from the Board at the recommendation of the Pastor. In such an extreme case, the other members of the Board will be informed of the decision and the action will be officially ratified by them.

## **“Adjunct” Members**

From time to time, the Pastor may ask certain people to serve as temporary members of the Board. These circumstances would be for the purpose of adding “expertise” to the Board. Their term of service will be limited to their particular project and time frame (it could be for only one meeting). An example of such instances would be when the church is building, we may ask a person from the construction field to join us, to give his or her insight.

# Membership

*Together, we are the Body of Christ. Each one is part of His Body.*

## The Role Of A Member

At Praise Family Church we expect the members of the church to be members in the Biblical sense of the word: connected and contributing to the Body of Christ.

To be a formal member of Praise Family Church we ask people not only to function as committed parts of the body, but also to be affirmed by the Pastor, publicly presented to the entire body, and to sign a statement of commitment. These actions give meaningful public evidence of private commitments. In addition, they provide an important measure of accountability.

### Every Member a Minister

We believe that every member has a call to be involved in ministry. There is a distinction between those called into full-time service (professional clergy) and those called as a believer to be a functioning part of the body of Christ. It is expected that membership at Praise Family Church include the responsibility of ministry.

We understand that there are seasons in our life that don't allow us to minister as we would like, but we should pray and believe that God will open the doors for ministry involvement.

### Criteria for Membership

Membership at Praise Family Church is open to anyone who has personally accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and has attended Praise regularly for at least 1 month. The member must be in agreement with the doctrines of the Word of God. He or she should seek Baptism in Water and Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The member should support the ministries of PFC by personal involvement and financial and prayerful support.

### Membership Application

Every person seeking membership must fill out a membership application, have a personal interview with the Pastor, and view a video teaching concerning membership.

### Membership Process

Once membership is desired and the application, video, and personal interview is complete, the Pastor will publicly introduce the members to the body.

### Terms of Membership

Membership will be renewed every year automatically if the member has been active in the services, financially supportive, and involved in ministry. The member will be taken off the membership role if he/she has not fulfilled the requirements of membership.