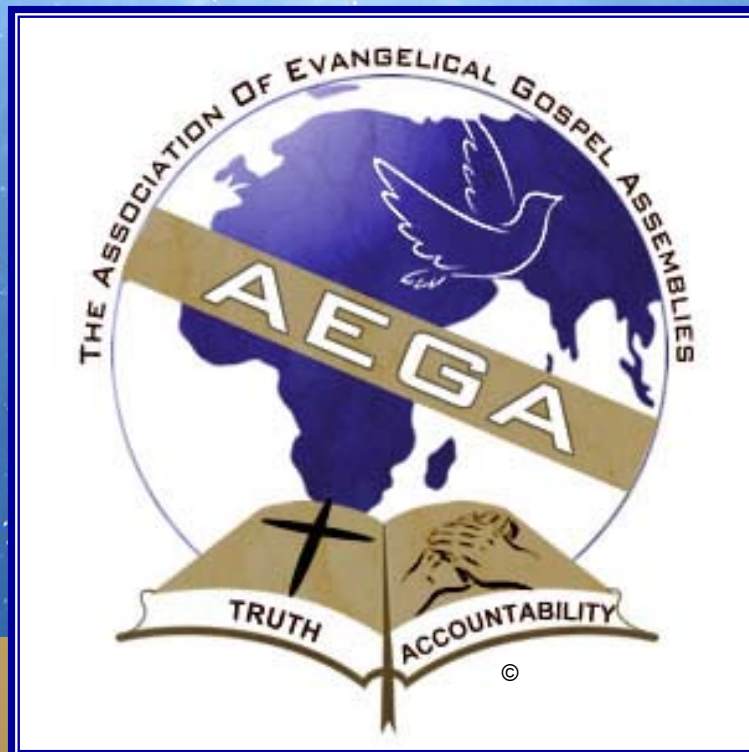


HELPING YOU FULFILL YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALL WITH INTEGRITY ©



A Worldwide Full Gospel Fellowship

Where there is no accountability, there is no responsibility. ©

Your Calling . . . Our Purpose



*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord,
who hath enabled me, for that he
counted me faithful, putting me into
the ministry.*

1 Timothy 1:12 (KJV)



HELPING YOU FULFILL YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALL WITH INTEGRITY ©

A Word From the PRESIDENT...

A.E.G.A.
Association of
Evangelical Gospel Assemblies, Inc.

AEGA MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 2149 Highway 139
 Monroe, LA 71203 USA
 1-800-842-5176



Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings, in the precious Name of Jesus ... and thank you for contacting AEGA!

Often imitated, but never duplicated, the *Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies* is a **God-ordained** Convention of Churches and International Fellowship. Well known in the global Christian community, AEGA is a member of the NAE (*National Association of Evangelicals*) and legally organized and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

FOR OVER 36 YEARS, the AEGA has been a ministry **TO** and **FOR** ministers. We are committed to helping **YOU** move forward in ministry—fulfilling **YOUR** God-given call with **INTEGRITY**. Membership in AEGA affords you the opportunity to remain independent, yet enjoy many of the benefits associated with a denomination. Our General Executive Governing Board has many years of experience, and is eager to assist, counsel, and pray with you.

So if you're called to the ministry in some capacity or contemplating a new direction for an existing ministry, consider AEGA — where your spiritual growth is our top priority.

Sincerely, in HIS service

Henry A. Harbuck, Ph.D.

Int'l General Overseer & President

WHERE WE ARE...



Dr. Charles Henderson, AEGA Int'l Executive Board Member
& Director of AEGA Foreign Affairs

The AEGA
Fellowship has
Ministers, Churches,
Ministries, Partners
& Affiliates

Around the World!

*Reaching the Nations
for HIS Glory!*

*WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US...
WE ARE ONE OF THE FASTEST
GROWING FELLOWSHIPS IN
THE WORLD TODAY.*

To God be the Glory!



- UNITED STATES
 - AFRICA
 - BRAZIL
 - S. KOREA
 - EUROPE
 - INDIA
 - ISRAEL
 - PHILIPPINES
 - VIRGIN ISLANDS
 - PAKISTAN
 - CAMBODIA
 - UNITED KINGDOM
 - AUSTRALIA
 - CANADA
 - INDONESIA
 - MEXICO
 - SINGAPORE
- & Many More!

OVER ONE MILLION STRONG ... And GROWING!
*(Includes people involved in AEGA through its churches, ministries,
schools, affiliates & mission outreaches)*

WHO WE ARE...



Dr. Henry Harbuck,
AEGA President

The *Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies, Inc. (AEGA)* was originally organized and chartered in 1976 under the name “Christian Ministries” – a local ministerial fellowship in Monroe, Louisiana. In 1988 Godly men with extensive ministerial experience, a fresh vision for soul winning, church planting, missions, and Christian education expanded the Fellowship internationally. Today, AEGA is a respected Association with several divisions – “*imitated by many, but never duplicated!*”

Currently our **Credential and Church-Ministry Division** has members throughout the world, with thousands of men and women of God under its banner. Ministerial credentials are provided for qualified applicants (both men and women). We also offer the **501(c)(3) tax exempt status under our group exemption** to Churches, Evangelistic Ministries,



Counseling Centers, Music & Worship Ministries, Christian Schools and Bible Colleges. As a member of AEGA, you can **fellowship** with those of like precious faith at district and area meetings, and meet believers from around the world at the AEGA World Conference -- held annually at the headquarters in Monroe, Louisiana or in major cities across the United States.



One of the primary missions of AEGA is fulfilled through its **Educational Divisions** – *Omega Bible Institute & Seminary and Evangel Christian University of America* – training hundreds of indigenous ministers in the USA and countries around the world. Students from numerous denominations enroll in a *par excellence* study program to earn a bachelor, master, or doctorate degree. Held concurrently with the World Conference, the highlight of the year is graduation, when students from coast to coast and around the world gather to receive their degrees. When you become a member of AEGA, you become part of the vision to educate laymen and ministers around the globe for the glory of God.



From the beginning, AEGA has been committed to **WORLD MISSIONS**. Projects include Church planting, Bible Schools, helping the poor, feeding needy children, annual Christmas Blessing Project, and a dynamic MEDICAL MISSION outreach. The **AEGA World Missions Department** has been instrumental in sending millions of dollars in medicines around the world. Thousands of souls have been touched and brought into the Kingdom through this outreach alone.

BENEFITS and...

OVERSIGHT: Our leadership is experienced in all areas of ministry. These men and women of God are available for counsel and prayer, whether in the establishment of your ministry or the fostering of personal spiritual growth. AEGA assists member churches seeking pastors and other church leaders by providing a list of qualified candidates from our membership. AEGA leadership is available to minister at special church events upon invitation.

STRUCTURE: Organized as a *convention of churches*, the AEGA Fellowship does not operate as a denomination, membership club, or bookkeeping business. **We believe Church and Christian non-profit organizations should operate autonomously, thus your property and assets are held in the name of your church or ministry.**

AEGA does not seek to build a membership list from which to solicit income or promote its own published products or services. However, we believe ministry resources are valuable to the body of Christ, and make available to our membership an extensive list of resources. Adhering to this policy, we are supported entirely by our ministers, churches, and ministries just as the local church is supported by those it serves and oversees. As the Apostle Paul submitted himself to the leadership in Jerusalem and received offerings for distribution to those in need, we also work with our member ministries and churches to build the Kingdom of God. (*2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:6-7*).

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES: The World Conference is held annually in June at the AEGA Int'l Headquarter Facility in Monroe, Louisiana or in a major metropolitan area. Regional and state events around the U.S. are hosted by member churches throughout the year, as well as international conferences in several countries. Men, Women, and Youth Retreats are also featured at the AEGA Lodge & Retreat Center located near the international headquarters facility.

EDUCATION: AEGA provides accredited (non-regional) degree programs from Associate to Doctorate level through *Evangel Christian University* and *Omega Bible Seminary*.

CHURCH TAX/LAW CONSULTANTS: AEGA provides a qualified and experienced team to help you properly establish your church or ministry. As consultants to new and established ministries and churches, these adept professionals help ensure your compliance with both IRS and state regulations.



Providing FACTS not FEAR ...

A Qualified Staff Available

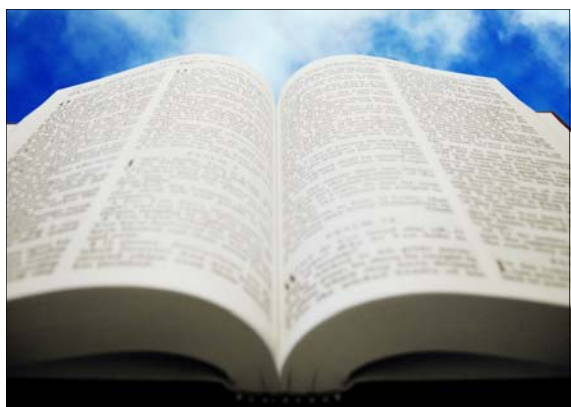
No Charge to Members

A unique and valuable benefit!

SO MUCH MORE!

Members in the AEGA Receive...

- ▶ **Biblical Relationships with Men and Women of Like Precious Faith.**
- ▶ **Spiritual Covering & Accountability**
- ▶ **International Prayer Base and Online Prayer Center**
- ▶ **Free Annual Renewal (for Covenant Members)**
- ▶ **Current Access to the AEGA Membership Worldwide**
- ▶ **AEGA Gold-Plated Lapel Pin**
- ▶ **“The Grapevine” Monthly Newsletter**
- ▶ **Networking (*Connected ... Yet Independent*)**
- ▶ **Ministry Resources:**
 - *Short Term Mission Opportunities*
 - *Affordable Health Care Assistance*
 - *Retirement Plans & Living Trust*
 - *International Minister's Conference with specialized seminars*
 - *Discounted Website Design and Hosting for Members*
 - *Toll Free Number for Member Churches and Ministries*
- ▶ **Consultations Available For:**
 - *Church Tax/Law Regulations*
 - *Faith-Based Grant Writing*
 - *Bookkeeping & Accounting Methods*
 - *Church Financing Information*



WE CARE ABOUT YOU!

Our Mission and Purpose ...
Serve, Equip and Assist You in Fulfilling Your God-Given Call.

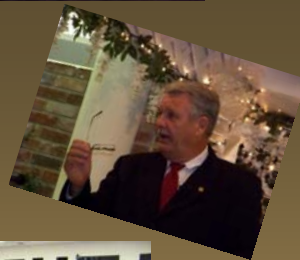
Our Goal as a Fellowship...
Win SOULS to Christ, Fulfilling the Great Commission

What are the Qualifications & How do I apply for my Credentials?



CREDENTIALS AVAILABLE FOR:

- Pastors
- Associate Pastors
- Youth Pastors
- Children's Pastors
- Evangelists
- Ministers of Music
- Praise & Worship Leaders
- Lay Ministers
- Missionaries
- Military Chaplaincy Endorsements
- Hospital & Prison Chaplains
- Christian Counselors
- Teachers
- Professors



QUALIFICATIONS & LEVELS OF CREDENTIALS OFFERED:

(See Enclosed Credential Application for More Detailed Information)

Qualifications at a Glance...	Christian Worker	Ministerial Apprentice	Licensed	Ordained	Specialty License
Have a Call of God on His or Her Life	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
At Least 18 years of Age	✓				
At Least 20 years of Age		✓			
At Least 21 years of Age			✓	✓	✓
Living a consistent Christian Life	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Actively Involved in a Local Church	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monthly Giving Required	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Test Required			✓	✓	✓
Must complete 12 months or more of supervision by a Licensed or Ordained Pastor in a local church before upgrading to Licensed Minister Level		✓			
Must Agree to Abide by the AEGA 18 Fundamental Truths (included in this booklet)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Must have experienced the Baptism in The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) with the initial physical evidence of speaking in tongues		✓	✓	✓	
Permitted to obtain a 501(c)(3) Charter under AEGA Group Exemption once credential is approved			✓	✓	✓

How to Apply



United States Credential Application Enclosed in this Folder.

If you have questions call Toll Free—800-842-5176 or email: info@aega.org

TO APPLY: Complete the enclosed application and MAIL in the postage paid envelope. Or APPLY ONLINE at www.aega.org.

When we receive your application, a complete copy of the **AEGA Constitution & Bylaws** will be mailed to you, along with the scheduled time of your **Telephone Interview** with the **Credential Committee**. A Bible-Knowledge Questionnaire is may also be required at the Licensed and Ordained Level. However, the entire process usually takes less than 30 days.

NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTERS:

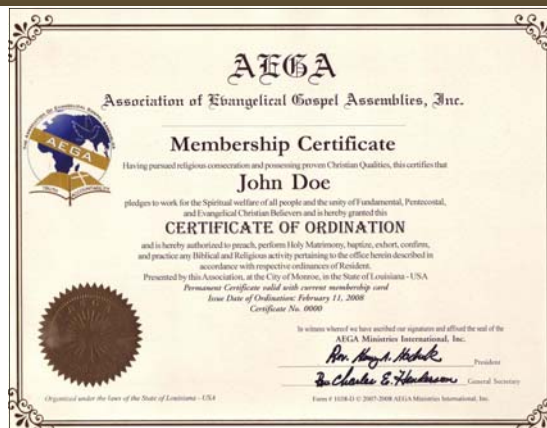


Ministers applying from countries outside of the United States must use a "Foreign Credential Application Form." You may apply online at: www.aega.org



ORDINATION CEREMONY: Your ordination is legally effective upon receipt from AEGA. However, you are encouraged to attend an Ordination Ceremony for the laying on of hands at either the World Conference or any AEGA Area Meeting at any time after receiving your credentials. Foreign Ministers may attend the Conference held annually in their country.

Your Credential Certificate



Original Size is 8.5 x 11

Once you are approved, you will receive a *Welcome Packet* with a beautiful certificate for framing, credential card, and gold-plated lapel pin.

Types of Membership

Associate Member

Licensed or Ordained Level

Financial Obligation:

Pays application fee, agrees to give a monthly offering and annual renewal fee.
(minimum of \$25.00 per month)

- Annual Membership Renewal Fee Required
- \$50 per year to be a member of the AEGA Global Online Network and post on "My Page."
- Free access to AEGA website & member page.
- Free Gold-plated Lapel Pin
- Free Monthly *Grapevine* Newsletter
- Networking & Ministerial Resources
- Accountability & Prayer Covering
- International Prayer Base
- Free Church & Ministry Tax/Law Consultation
- May obtain a charter under the AEGA 501c3 Group Tax Exempt status for your church or ministry. However, NO discount available for set up fees.
- NOT eligible to hold a leadership position with AEGA.

Covenant Member

Licensed or Ordained Level

Financial Obligation:

No application fee or annual renewal fee required.
Agrees to give 1/2 of their personal tithes on a monthly basis.
(Minimum \$50 per month & proof of income verified)

- FREE Annual Membership Renewal
- FREE Web Access for AEGA Members Worldwide
- FREE membership to AEGA Global Online Network
- FREE Gold-plated Lapel Pin
- FREE Monthly *Grapevine* Newsletter
- Networking & Ministerial Resources
- Accountability & Prayer Covering
- International Prayer Base
- Mission Opportunities – U.S. & Foreign
- Affordable Health Care Assistance
- Ministers Retirement Plan for Qualified Ministers
- Free Church & Ministry Tax/Law Consultation
- DISCOUNTS on AEGA World Conference registration fees.
- DISCOUNTS on tuition at Omega Seminary & Evangel Christian University
- May obtain a charter under the AEGA 501c3 Group Tax Exempt status for your church or ministry. Receives a 10% discount on set up fees.
- Eligible to hold LEADERSHIP positions in AEGA.

The "Covenant Member" is one who has a desire to be more involved in the AEGA Fellowship and is eligible to be appointed into leadership. He or She most likely (but not limited to) are in full-time or part-time ministry as a pastor, military chaplain, missionary or evangelist. The "Covenant Member" does have more benefits available to them through the fellowship. (see above)

The "Associate Member" is one who is actively (but usually newly) involved in ministry most likely (but not limited to) an associate pastor, youth or children pastor, Christian Counselor, director of a faith-based outreach, school, etc.

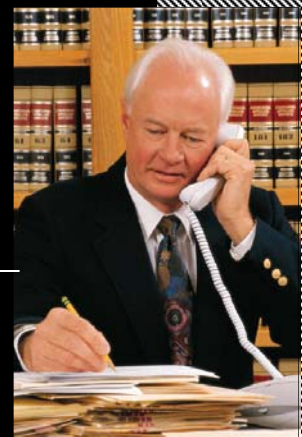
“Ignorance is NO Excuse!”

As a LEADER of any ministry, it is YOUR responsibility to know what is required...WE CAN HELP !

**The
501 (c) (3)
YOU,
Your Church or
Ministry, &
the**



— IRS —



Thousands of Non-Profit Organizations are Audited each year by the IRS.

Why Do You Need 501(c)(3) Status for Your Church

Certain events within the past two decades triggered a vast reshaping of public opinion toward local and national ministries, while also prompting the IRS to increase its scrutiny of evangelical churches and ministerial associations. Each year thousands of non-profit, tax-exempt organizations [i.e., 501(c)(3)'s] are audited by the IRS in an effort to ensure compliance to existing IRS Code.



*Dr. Jan Harbuck—AEGA Executive Board Member
& Church Tax & Law Specialist/Consultant*

Most beginning ministries concerned with legal and tax issues consult a local attorney and/or CPA. However, they often find these professionals lack adequate knowledge of IRS non-profit regulations and procedures. Ministries everywhere now realize that ***chartering a ministry is a specialized field.***

One of AEGA's *most* significant functions is helping our members to PROPERLY CHARTER their ministries. Having been granted dual Group Exemptions by the Internal Revenue Service, AEGA can provide the 501(c)(3) Exemption for both its church and non-church entities.

Many churches and ministries operate under a state incorporation; however, **this alone does not provide IRS tax-exempt status because there is a difference between “non-profit” and “tax-exempt.”** After obtaining your state incorporation, you must also apply for Exemption from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. This procedure is often expensive and can take several years obtain. **That's why coming under our Group Exempt umbrella is such a great benefit!**

Charter specialists at the AEGA Headquarters will prepare the documents to qualify your church or ministry for the 501(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt status. What we can do for you in thirty to forty-five days could easily take you one to three years if you act alone.

Remember ... it is imperative that these legal documents be properly prepared ***before*** you receive financial or in-kind contributions. ***Do not jeopardize your ministry and reputation in the community ... permit us to charter your church or ministry the right way.***

AEGA Offers 501 (c) (3) Status under our Group Exemption to the Following Or-



LOCAL CHURCH (Existing Churches or New Churches): This Charter protects the church and helps eliminate conflicts that may arise from the community, the state, and the IRS. The Internal Revenue Service definition of a “church” includes a distinct legal existence, a recognized creed and form of worship, and a formal code of doctrine and discipline, in addition to other requirements. *Are you a “church” by IRS definition? If you’re not sure, call us!*

LOCAL MISSIONS: The local mission is similar to the local church, but different in purpose. Like a church, a local mission must have regular services and may begin in a home or other building. Ministering primarily to the poor, orphans, street people, and abused women and children, a mission may offer rooms for rent, distribute food and clothing, and conduct educational or Bible studies. Because a local mission is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, it is allowed to charge a *reasonable* fee for its services. However, it cannot enforce payment if a person is unable to pay.

EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION: This charter is granted (though not limited) to itinerant ministries such as evangelists, missionaries, Bible teachers, and worship leaders. Having an evangelistic charter allows a ministry to receive contributions while traveling anywhere in the US. If tapes, books, or other items are either sold or distributed without charge, this information must be stated in the charter application.

EDUCATIONAL (Church School, Academy, Bible College, Seminary):

Any institution applying for this Charter must clearly outline its purpose and curriculum. Such entities may not be racially discriminatory and must state this fact in the by-laws of the organization. This policy must also be included in its brochures, all catalogs dealing with student admissions, and any other programs and scholarships.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER: A Christian counseling center may be part of an established church, or operated independently from the church. It is important to charter and legally establish this type of entity, since state officials closely scrutinize such organizations, often prompted by their competition with local licensed professionals in the fields of psychology and counseling.

A Christian Counseling Center is considered by the IRS to be a religious and charitable organization; and thus may charge a reasonable fee for services rendered. Some centers use a sliding scale fee system. However, the counseling center, like other non-profit organizations, cannot require payment from a client unable to pay. And doing so may result in the loss of the organization’s tax exempt status. (*Counselors may be required by their respective state of residence to maintain a license and carry professional liability insurance*).

Your Certificate of Charter

- ▶ A necessary pre-requisite—the primary pastor of a church or president of a ministry seeking the 501(c)(3) must hold ministerial credentials with AEGA before his/her charter may be processed. Licensed or Ordained minister are the only levels approved for a charter.
- ▶ Once credentials are issued, we immediately begin the 501(c)(3) process. The charter forms are mailed to you to complete. Upon receipt at our offices, you should expect to receive your charter within thirty days, provided all requirements are met.
- ▶ See **Question & Answer Section** on next page for more information about this process.



Sample of Official Charter Certificate—Original Size 8.5 x 11

TO BEGIN THE PROCESS TO OBTAIN YOUR CHARTER. . .

Simply complete the **Charter Request Form** included in this folder. Mail with your credential application. Send no money with this form.

For more information Call: 800-842-5176 or Visit Our Web Site www.aega.org

What CONTROL does AEGA have over my Church or Ministry?

We **do not** “manage” your funds or tell you how to operate your church or ministry. **Each ministry is autonomous. Each is sovereign.** We do not own your property or tell you what to preach. Your church or ministry is under the “general supervision” of AEGA.

We **do** require that each church or ministry chartered or affiliated with AEGA agree to adhere to our By-Laws and 18 Fundamental Truths.

We **do** provide a qualified, experienced team to assist you. Rely on our expertise to prepare your ...

- ▶ *State Incorporation*
- ▶ *By-Laws*
- ▶ *Articles of Incorporation*
- ▶ *Obtain Employer Identification Number (EIN)*
- ▶ *Properly Issue the 501(c)(3) under the AEGA Group Exemption*



Dr. Elizabeth Foy, AEGA
Executive Board Member,
Ministry Consultant & Chair of
Credential Committee

**Offering an Array of Benefits to Help YOU
Fulfill the Vision God has Planted in YOUR Heart
BE CONNECTED ... yet INDEPENDENT**



Why does my church or ministry need a 501(c)(3)?

Any organization receiving financial or in-kind contributions without the legal benefit of a 501(c)(3) risks having such funds designated as ‘taxable income’ if audited. Unfortunately, contributors to the ministry would also be deemed liable for back taxes. *The burden of proof is upon the contributor if the church or ministry does not have an official ruling.*

Are there other reasons for obtaining a 501(c)(3)?

Yes, the 501(c)(3) is a necessary pre-requisite when applying for government or public grants. It assures potential donors of the deductibility of their contributions, and provides exemption (in most states) from sales taxes. It assures exemption from Federal excise taxes, and assures non-profit (discounted) mailing privileges.

Stay Informed

AEGA keeps you current, providing timely information on the ever-changing world of IRS regulations. Regional seminars are held throughout the year, and data is available on our website at www.aega.org



CALL & RECEIVE PERSONAL

ASSISTANCE ANYTIME!

1-800-842-5176

PROVIDING “FACTS” ... NOT “FEAR”

Questions & Answers

Q: What is a Charter?

A: A charter is an official certificate issued to a church or ministry upon approval by AEGA. Imprinted with the AEGA Group Exemption Number, this document grants to a “subordinate” the 501(c)(3) exempt status and assures that the recipient has met IRS criteria and is under general (not specific) supervision of the AEGA.

Q: Is it really necessary to have a charter?

A: Any church or ministry organization soliciting donations is a prime target if audited by the IRS. If it is determined that you have not legally acquired tax exempt status, your organization may be deemed liable for back taxes and reclassified as a for-profit business. Sadly, your contributors would also be charged for back taxes because of your organization’s failure to obtain a charter recognized by the IRS.



Q: Aren't Churches Already Considered A 501(c)(3) by the IRS?

A: Yes and No. Churches and their integrated auxiliaries [per Section 508(c)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code] are automatically considered a 501(c)(3)]. This *however* relieves only churches from obtaining a favorable determination letter of their status from the IRS. *It does not relieve a church* of meeting ALL the requirements of section 501(c)(3). Thus, if audited, the burden of proof is passed to the contributors who must establish that the church does, in fact, meet the requirements of the 501(c)(3).

The courts consider tax-exempt status for churches as an act of “legislative grace.” This places churches under a higher potential for tax inquiry or audit because they have not gone through the legislative process required to receive an official tax-exempt status approval. *We feel it is the responsibility of church leaders to ensure the church is properly set in order, thus relieving any undue burden upon the people who trust their leadership.*

NOTE: Any **religious organization** (non-church) whose gross receipts do NOT exceed \$5,000 in a taxable year are not required to file for the exemption. Those grossing more than \$5,000 per year **are required** to file for their 501(c)(3) status directly from the IRS or come under a group exemption like the AEGA offers. **HOWEVER**, the 501(c)(3) is a necessary pre-requisite all non-profits (including churches) when applying for government or public grants, assuring potential donors of the deductibility of their contributions and providing exemption (in some states) from sales taxes. It also assures exemption from Federal excise taxes and affords the holder non-profit (discounted) mailing privileges.

Q: Is there a cost for a charter?

A: Yes. Currently our fees consist of a one-time \$400 set up charge, and a required monthly general fund offering to AEGA Ministries International. The monthly fee varies according to your annual gross income and whether you are a church or ministry. Charters grossing \$35,000 a year or less are required to give \$35.00 per month, increasing slightly as the ministry grows. The charter is automatically renewed, at no charge, on March 28th of each year provided the ministry remains in good standing with the AEGA.

Q: How do I obtain a charter?

A: Simply complete the forms enclosed in this folder. When your completed forms arrive in our office, we will begin work on them (usually that same day). After your paperwork has been processed, it is evaluated by our charter board. Upon approval, your ministry charter (beautiful certificate suitable for framing and official determination letter) will be issued to you.

Q: How long does it take to acquire a charter?

A: Assuming your paperwork is complete and in order, it normally takes approximately thirty (30) days or less from the date your charter application is received. *(Note: No charter application can be processed until your Application For Ministerial Credentials at the Licensed or Ordained level has FIRST been approved).*

Q: Am I required to file ministry reports with AEGA?

A: Yes. A financial summary report is due at the end of each year. This is required by the Internal Revenue Service, and is for your benefit and protection. However, AEGA does not manage your funds or tell you how to operate you ministry. Each ministry is autonomous and sovereign.

Q: Must I become a member of AEGA to receive a charter?

A: Yes. If you are the president of the ministry, you are required to hold credentials with AEGA at the Licensed or Ordained level. This policy is primarily for accountability & liability purposes, thereby providing benefits for the credentialed minister as well.

Q: Why is there a Monthly Giving Requirement?

A: As a true fellowship, we are supported entirely by our member ministers, churches, and ministries just as the local church is supported by those it serves and oversees. And as the Apostle Paul submitted himself to the leadership in Jerusalem and received offerings for distribution to those in need, we also work with our member ministries and churches to build and advance the Kingdom of God around the world (2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:6,7). (see more about this under "Structure" on page 4)

Q: Must I have a Board of Directors?

A: Yes. The IRS requires that all chartered ministries have a Board of Directors. Although each ministry is autonomous and sovereign, a minimum of 5 board members is required before approval can be granted. Only two of these 5 members may be blood relation; and the president and treasurer must not be related by either blood *or* marriage. *(A ministry may begin with three board members, adding two more within the first year. The first three are required to be President, Secretary and Treasurer).*

Q: My church or ministry does not have Bylaws. Aren't these required?

A: Yes. By-Laws are required before your organization can be chartered or incorporated; therefore they are a pre-requisite to the 501(c)(3). But once again, AEGA makes it easy. We will prepare your By-Laws for the low cost of \$50.00

Q: My Church or ministry is NOT incorporated. Isn't this necessary prior to obtaining the 501(c)(3)?

A: Yes. Incorporation is required, as this signifies legal status with your state. We prepare your state articles of incorporation for you at a cost of only \$250. If you have already incorporated, you must provide a copy for our review. This is to ensure compliance with specific wording in the IRS code, and is required prior to granting the 501(c)(3). If your Articles of Incorporation do not meet requirements, we will do what is necessary to make them compliant for a fee of \$50.00.

Q: Is the AEGA Office available if I have IRS or accounting questions?

A: Yes! Our Church Tax/Law Specialists and CPA are always ready to consult with you at *no charge*. And most importantly, we are here to lift you and your ministry up in prayer. This is truly a great benefit of being part of an international fellowship ... you are not alone!

Q: What should I do first to begin the process?

A: Complete the enclosed Application for Ministerial Credentials and the Charter Request Form and mail them to AEGA. Or you can go to www.aega.org and complete online. Send no money at this time.

Q: Can I lose My 501(c)(3) Charter?

A: Yes, under the following conditions: (1) You may voluntarily withdraw your charter at anytime. (2) Should your ministry or church fail to comply with the requirements set forth in the By-Laws, your Charter can be revoked. (3) Should the membership of the Pastor or Ministry Director lapse or be revoked by AEGA, the Charter is automatically forfeited.

Q: What if I already have the 501(c)(3)? How can I be part of AEGA?

A: You can use our "AFFILIATION PROGRAM." This program is for people who desire fellowship, but have already obtained the 501(c)(3) exemption directly from the IRS. You may be a credentialed member of AEGA or may be credentialed with another recognized organization with same doctrinal beliefs. There is small fee to process the affiliation of your church or ministry with AEGA. We do request that you prayerfully and financially support the fellowship. To affiliate with AEGA, call our office and request an "Affiliation Form" or go to www.aega.org to apply online.

What We Believe

Our Eighteen Fundamental Truths



A.E.G.A.

Association of
Evangelical Gospel Assemblies, Inc.

*Revised and approved on May 1, 2011
by the General Executive Presbytery Board*

We, the members of the General Executive Presbytery Board of the Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies, have taken in hand to set forth a declaration of Eighteen Fundamental truths most surely believed among us as necessary in understanding the intent of the Living God. We pray that there be no harmful differences which lead to disunity, divisiveness, or disharmony among the brethren, the Churches, or Association, and that we may be all of the same mind and judgment, speaking the same things in love (Acts 2:42; I Cor.1:10).

THE BIBLE—OUR SOLE GUIDE

The Bible is our sole guide and sets forth criteria for a heaven-bound people. We believe that it supremely declares the “Holy Oracles” of God which our confidence in its profound truth is essential for establishing our faith and religious practices.

1 - The Scriptures

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21). The Bible is the revelation of God to mankind, the inerrant, authoritative guide for faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess.2:13).

2 - The Triune Godhead

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternal, self-existent, immutable, “I Am,” the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of mankind (Deut. 6:4; Ex. 3:14; Isa.43:10,11). God has further revealed Himself as a Triune Being but manifested in three personalities as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Isa.48:16; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22). God the Father is greater than all (John 14:28), the Source and Beggetter of the Word (John 1:14; 16:28). *No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him* (John 1:18). The Son is the Word, God incarnate, the One begotten, and existed with the Father from the beginning (John 1:1, 14, 18), being co-equal with God (Phil. 2:6). The Holy Spirit proceeds forth from God the Father (John 14:26; 15:26) and God the Son (John 16:7) and is eternal (John 14:16), being promised by Christ from the Father to all cleansed believers (John 14:16, 17).

(a) The Holy Trinity - The term “Trinity,” while not found in the Scriptures, is a term that conforms to the Scriptures. The New Testament teachings of Christ express a relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and yet the “Trinity” is incomprehensible and inexplicable (Luke 1:35; I Cor.1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2Cor.13:14; I John 1:3, 4).

(b) The Holy Trinity does not operate in modes as taught by oneness Pentecostals. Although God is One in His Unity and Essence (Deut. 6:4) there are three distinct persons, each of whom is in full possession of the divine essence (Mt. 28:19; II Cor.13:14). The proper terminology for the Godhead is: God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit.

3 - The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, is divine, and shares in the Deity of God as the second person in the Holy Trinity (Matt. 1:23; John 5:22,23; 2 John 3; Heb. 1:1-3).

4 - Original Sin and the Fall of Man

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God; for God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness* (Gen. 1:26, 27). However, the first man, Adam, by his transgression fell, and thus sin entered into the world resulting in physical and spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12-19). *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God* (Rom. 3:23). *As it is written there is none righteous, no not one* (Rom. 3; 10).

5 - The Salvation of Man

The only hope of redemption for humankind is through the shed blood of Christ, the Son of God (Luke 24:47). Salvation is received through repentance (i.e., a change of heart, attitude, mind towards God) and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:8-13; 10:9; Jas. 1:21; Eph. 2:8). The Spirit bears witness inwardly that we are saved (Rom. 8:16), while there is definite evidence outwardly of a consecrated life of righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12). We believe that eternal life in Heaven is the reward of the righteous (Matt. 24:13; Mark 13:13).

6 - The Church

The true Church is the Body of Christ (I Cor.12:12-27), not intended to be the edifice or institution, but the habitation of God through the Holy Spirit. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and the Church of the firstborn which was written in Heaven (Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

7 - The Mission of the Church

Since God's purpose concerning mankind is to seek and save that which is lost (Luke 19:10), to be worshiped by all mankind and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the mission of the Church is:

- (a) To be an agency (i.e., The Universal Church) for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16).
- (b) To be a corporate body (i.e. The Local Church) in which man may worship God (I Cor.12:13).
- (c) To be a channel (i.e., The Universal and Local Church) of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor.12:28; 14:12;).

8 - The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent of their sins and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16). Baptism is a declaration of a good conscience towards God, a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 2:41; 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4,5). We officially recognize the baptismal formula listed in Matthew 28:19 and recommend the following procedure for baptizing converts: "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and by His authority, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Spirit).

(b) Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper)

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the cup of the fruit of the vine - is a symbol that typifies our sharing in the suffering, resurrection and exaltation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:4); a memorial of His sufferings and death (I Cor. 11:26; Phil. 3:10); a reminder of His second coming (I Cor.11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes!"

9 - The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Every believer is entitled to, should seek for, and should expect to receive the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” (KJV “Holy Ghost”). This experience, which is an enduement of power for Christian service was active and necessary in the early Apostolic Church for the fulfillment of the ministry of the Apostles (Luke 24:29; Acts 1:4,8; I Cor.12:1-31). We believe the “Spirit Baptism” 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). There are definite signs that accompany this experience such as overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), intensified consecration and dedication to work for God (Acts 2:42), an ever-abounding love for the Word of God, love for Christ, and a burning desire to see lost mankind saved (Mark 16:20).

10 - The Initial Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Baptism of all born-again believers “in the Holy Spirit” is always witnessed by the physical initial evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). Speaking in tongues in this instance (Acts 2:4) is the same in essence as the “gift of tongues” (I Cor.12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use. These tongues are not learned but are a mystery, a gift, as the speaker is prompted by the Holy Spirit (I Cor.14:2).

11 - Divine Healing

Divine healing was clearly provided for in the Old Testament (Ex. 15:23-26; Ps. 103:1-3; Isa.53:4,5) and is an integral part of the New Testament Gospel as taught by Christ, the Apostles, and the early Church (Matt. 8:16,17; Acts 5:16; Jas. 5:14-16). Deliverance from physical and mental diseases, sicknesses, or ailments is provided for in the Atonement (Matt. 8:16, 17; Jas. 5:14-16). Divine healing is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; Jas. 5:14, 15), fervent prayer (Jas. 5:16), and is the privilege of every believer who will accept it (Luke 5:15).

12 - Sanctification

Sanctification is a definite yet progressive work of grace, as taught in the Scriptures, which leads to holiness (Rom. 6:22). Christians should lead a life of holiness, *Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord* (Heb. 12:14). Sanctification in the believer is demonstrated by an act of separation from anything considered sinful in the Scriptures and of dedication to God (I Thess.5:23; 2 Pet. 3:18; Phil. 3:12-14; I Cor.1:30). The believer is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit to obey the command of holiness, *Be ye holy, for I am holy* (1 Pet. 1:16). The believer continues in holiness because of who he is in Christ, realizing that his identification with Him (Christ) in His death and resurrection by faith necessitates every faculty be controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12,13; 1 Pet. 1:5).

13 - The God Appointed Ministry

God by the Holy Spirit definitely calls whom He desires (wills) to serve in the five-fold ministry (Eph. 4:11), and qualifies the ones called with power, talents, wisdom, and gifts pertaining to that office or offices (I Cor.12:28). *Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called* (I Cor.7:20).

Ordained Ministers and Deacons

All ministers are divinely called and commissioned to preach the Gospel and evangelize the world (Mark 16:15-20), to worship God (John 4:23, 24), and build up the body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4:11-16).

(a) Women Ministers

When called of God and anointed by the Holy Spirit, women shall have the freedom to serve in the ministry as they are led by the Spirit (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:18; 8:17,18).

(b) Divorce and Re-marriage

When a divorce and re-marriage has taken place, the matter shall be left strictly to the individuals concerned and their conscience (Acts 11:9; 1 John 1:7; 2:1,2; Heb. 4:14-16; Matt. 12:31; Ps. 103:11,12). Candidates desiring credentials are examined by a committee on a one-to-one basis with all extenuating circumstances in their pasts carefully considered.

(c) Definition of Marriage & AEGA's Stance on Homosexuality:

► We resolve that as a matter of belief, doctrine, and religious practice, AEGA Fellowship reserves the term “**marriage**” for the covenant relationship between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, which has always been our belief.

Member Participation in the Solemnization and Celebration of Marriage: We resolve that members of AEGA Fellowship, both laity and clergy, will be allowed to arrange for, officiate at, or take part in the solemnization or celebration of a marriage *only* when it conforms to AEGA Fellowship's statements regarding marriage. We believe the Bible teaches that marriage is intended by God to be a life-long covenant of fidelity between a man and a woman symbolizing the relationship of Christ and His Church. This biblical and traditional understanding of marriage is the basis of strong, healthy families; and is therefore to be nourished and defended by the local church and all members of this Fellowship.

► While AEGA Ministries is fully convinced according to Scripture (see references below) that God is opposed to homosexuality and the gay lifestyle, we also understand that He seeks to forgive and restore all who come to Him. It is our belief that homosexuals are sinners like everyone and need God's forgiveness. We believe they can be set free from the power of this sin and live a changed lifestyle. We believe we are to love the person caught in this deception but as the church we are called to make a stand against the unrighteousness of this practice.

Homosexuality comes against God's divine plan for the human race in that homosexual couples cannot procreate as commanded in Genesis. It not only perverts the order of marriage established in the Garden of Eden but also brings the possibility of disease in the body and distress in a person's emotions and spirit.

It is for the reasons listed above and the foundation of the scriptures listed below, that we forbid our members to perform, sanction, bless, or attend any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony of persons of the same sex. To do so will result in the dismissal of said member's credential.

Genesis 19, Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26, 27, and I Corinthians 6:9-10

(d) Ordained Deacons

Every church has as its right and duty to choose, appoint, and ordain deacons as helpers, administrators, teachers, and workers. The office of “**deacon**” shall constitute a position of honor and respect, both from the pastor and the congregational body of believers. The word for “**deacon**” is from the Greek word “**diaconos,**” a “**servant,**” especially one who waits on tables. We recommend that the church select those full of the Holy Ghost (Spirit), God-called and anointed, having a desire to serve the Lord and His people (Acts 2:4; I Cor.12:4-10, 28).

(e) Qualifications for Deacons

The qualifications for deacons should be observed as binding when selecting a candidate for deacon ordination (see Tim. 3:8-13).

14 - Tithing

We believe that all Christians (including ministers) should tithe to the storehouse (Mal. 3:10,11). *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me, but ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings* (Mal. 3:8). Church members should tithe to the local church where they receive their spiritual food. Credentialed members of the Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies (AEGA) should recognize that tithing supports the local church and the universal church (*see Eighteen Fundamental Truths #7 "The Mission of the Local Church"; see Constitutional By-laws Article XX "Loyalty and Dedication"*).

15 - The Blessed Hope

We believe in the Pre-millennial coming of our Lord in the clouds to catch away His Bride. The angel said, *This same Jesus shall so come in like manner* (Acts 1:11). The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ is "the blessed hope" of the Church: *The dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air* (1Thess.4:16,17; also Rom. 8:23;

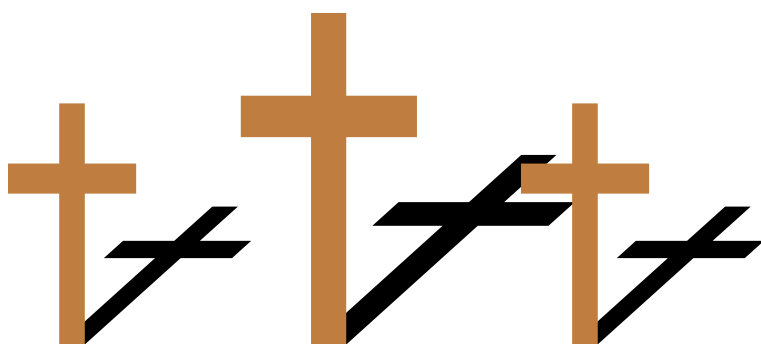
I Cor.15:51,52; Titus 2:13).

16- The Second Advent of Christ

The second coming; the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign with Him on earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This Millennial reign will bring salvation to national Israel (Ezek. 37:21, 22; Zeph.3:19, 20; Rom. 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa.11:6-9; Ps. 72:3-8; Mic.4:3, 4).

17 - 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 (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).



Dr. Jesus' Guerrero
AEGA Executive Board Member &
Director of the AEGA Latino Division

COMMENTS ABOUT AEGA

Comments from our Ministers—AEGA truly has the “Best of the Best!”



“AEGA is more than an organization, it is a family that I am very blessed to be a part of. The staff is always available to answer questions, pray and give sound biblical advice on the particulars of ministry. I am also impressed by the integrity and leadership of our presiding and territorial leaders as they work in love and unity to bring us encouragement and direction.”

Gerald Reliford, Pastor & Professor—Kentucky

I joined the AEGA family as an ordained minister with a call to Army Chaplaincy. This ministry has led me and my family from coast to coast and to Europe. I have been deployed to Iraq two times and throughout this journey my AEGA family has always been a source of unwavering support. I say that without a doubt, whatever battlefield I am on whether physical or spiritual my AEGA family will rally to the call standing with me through prayer, love and support. I am truly blessed to be part of this family. *“Taking the High Ground” - Chaplain Todd Williams—3rd Bn 1st SFG (A)*



Among the many benefits of being a member of AEGA, is the opportunity of meeting and making life-long friends that are as close as our family. The friendliness, the warmth and the fellowship of the members is the distinguishing attribute of the organization. For over a decade my wife (also an ordained minister with AEGA) and I have enjoyed the fellowship of network of like minded ministers around the world. We are truly grateful for the opportunity and to be a part of what God is doing through AEGA around the world.

Michael Atunrase, Pastor, Teacher, Missionary, Evangelist—Pennsylvania

“I have been a member of the AEGA since 1989 and am so blessed to be a part of such a great organization. The leadership and staff are wonderful, humble servants of and for the Lord. They have always been there for me and my family and at times have gone above and beyond the call of service to others. If you choose to become a member of the AEGA you will find that we are just normal people who also have been called of the Lord to do His will. You will receive all the guidance and help that you will need to be a viable part of God's Kingdom.”

Jack Ernest, Missionary, Evangelist & Chaplain—Ohio



“I went to the International Minister’s Conference to see if I could sense the vision of AEGA. Well, I am happy to report that I not only sensed it, but I also wanted to be a part of it.”

Jerry Hatfield, Chaplain & Professor—Texas

“As an international ministry, I was searching for a ministry organization that would not only fulfill the ministry, spiritual and legal needs, but I also wanted a fellowship of "real" people. That's exactly what I found at AEGA. At AEGA I know that I am not just a "number" in a computer. I'm part of a ministry organization that truly cares about me and my ministry. I'm very proud to say that AEGA is a great part of my ministry family.”

Rocky Morris, Evangelist & Christian Recording Artist—South Carolina



“I love my AEGA family. They epitomize I Corinthians 13:4-7. I am so glad the Holy Spirit led me to this Bible believing and praying body! Their love never fails.” *Adrienne Unae, Evangelist & Teacher—New York*

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