



AG Church Categories

By Superintendent Gene Roncone

If you are a church planter, you are probably wondering what kind of church you will be categorized as a part of the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network. In the Assemblies of God (AG), churches fall into one of two primary categories:

- District Affiliated Churches (church plants and less developed churches)
- General Council Affiliated Churches

The distinction lies primarily in their level of maturity, governance, and oversight. Here's how the Assemblies of God officially defines and distinguishes them:

A. General Council Affiliated Churches

- 1. Definition.** A General Council affiliated church is a fully autonomous (sovereign) congregation that meets the requirements for self-governance under the Assemblies of God Constitution and Bylaws.
- 2. Leadership.** Led by a “lead pastor” who holds a AG credential and a local church board elected by the congregation.
- 3. Governance.** Operates independently with full authority to govern its own affairs, including pastoral selection (subject to AG credentialing), property ownership, and ministry decisions as outlined in the Assemblies of God bylaws.
- 4. Affiliation.** While they are sovereign, these churches are still part of and accountable to the broader Fellowship for doctrinal unity and cooperative efforts.
- 5. Requirements.** Per Article XI, Section 1 of the AG Constitution ([click here](#))
 - At least 20 voting members
 - A recognized and credentialed pastor
 - A demonstrated record of self-sustaining ministry
 - Adherence to AG doctrine and polity

B. District Affiliated Churches

- 1. Definition.** A District-affiliated church is a congregation not yet fully self-governing and remains under the oversight and care of the District Council.
- 2. Leadership.** Typically led by a pastor appointed or approved by the District, often with the help of a provisional local advisory board.

3. **Governance.** Operates with district supervision—meaning key decisions (like pastoral placement, property transactions, budget and large expenses, or affiliation changes require district approval.
4. **Purpose.** Often a transitional status for new or smaller congregations that are still developing in membership, leadership, financial health, or organizational maturity.
5. **Goal.** Many District affiliated churches work toward achieving the qualifications to become General Council affiliated in the future.

C. Key Differences at a Glance

Feature	General Council Church	District Affiliated Church
Governance	Self-governing (local board)	Under District oversight
Pastoral Selection	Chosen by congregation	Approved/appointed by District
Property & Legal Decisions	Made by local board	Require District consent
Goal of Affiliation	Full autonomy within the AG Fellowship	Developmental stage, often moving toward GC
Voting Membership	20+ voting members required	May be fewer, depending on local District policy

Please feel free to call the Superintendent’s office if you have any additional questions.