

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**56th Session of**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**OF THE**  
**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**



with revised

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**56th GENERAL COUNCIL**

**Orlando, Florida**

**August 3–7, 2015**

# **MINUTES**

**of the**

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**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**OF THE**

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Convened in Orlando, Florida**

**August 3–7, 2015**

**with**

**Revised Constitution and Bylaws**

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri,  
October 13, 1916; amended September 26, 1919,  
September 7, 1965, and November 4, 1977)

**Printed in U.S.A.**



# **THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**George O. Wood, General Superintendent**  
**L. Alton Garrison, Assistant General Superintendent**  
**James T. Bradford, General Secretary**  
**Douglas E. Clay, General Treasurer**  
**Gregory M. Mundis, Executive Director of AG World Missions**  
**Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions**

## **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY**

George O. Wood, chairman

Dan C. Betzer	Nam Soo Kim
James T. Bradford	Rodney K. Loy
Warren D. Bullock	John E. Maracle
Douglas E. Clay	Jesse Miranda, Jr.
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	Gregory M. Mundis
Duane P. Durst	T. Ray Rachels
L. Alton Garrison	Brian C. Schmidgall
J. Don George	Zollie L. Smith, Jr.
A. Elizabeth Grant	Clarence W. St. John
Larry H. Griswold	

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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## FOREWORD

The 56th General Council convened in Orlando, Florida, August 3–7, 2015, with over 22,000 children, youth, and adults attending from around the nation.

The theme of this General Council was “SOAR”—abiding in the life of the Holy Spirit and moving forward in His power.

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the General Council on Tuesday night by preaching on Elijah and Elisha, calling us to pass on the mantle of Spirit-anointed leadership to the next generation. On Thursday night Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), preached from Daniel 11:32 on knowing God and doing exploits. The youth Fine Arts Festival Celebration Service concluded the Council on Friday night with over 15,000 young people and adults in attendance.

In the business sessions, L. Alton Garrison was reelected to a four-year term as assistant general superintendent. James T. Bradford and Gregory M. Mundis were also reelected to four-year terms as general secretary and executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, respectively.

During the 2013–2014 biennium, the United States Assemblies of God grew by 1.6 percent (1.6%) to nearly 3,147,000 adherents, representing 25 years of consecutive growth. The biennium also ended with a record number of churches (12,849) and a record number of credential holders (36,884) in the United States. We pray that God’s Spirit will continue to take us forward and bring a spiritual awakening to our nation.

Our next General Council will be in Anaheim, California, August 7–11, 2017, should the Lord tarry.

May the Lord bless you as we continue working together to build Christ’s kingdom!

James T. Bradford  
General Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE 56th GENERAL COUNCIL  
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
AUGUST 3–7, 2015**

The General Council Influence Conference convened on Monday and Tuesday, August 3–4. Speakers for this conference included Rice Brooks, Christine Caine, Ted Cunningham, Ted Dekker, Joseph Gordon, and John Hannah. A Young Influence Award was presented to Scott A. Hagan, pastor of Real Life Church in Sacramento, California. A Lifetime Influencer Award was presented to Ellen K. Blackwell, pastor of Mount Zion Assembly of God in Charles Town, West Virginia.

**TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 4**

The 56th General Council began with a 7 p.m. service at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, with George O. Wood, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the service with a welcome to everyone and called for everyone to SOAR, by abiding in the Spirit as one, carrying the fragrance of God, and soaring beyond hope's end. The Influence Worship Band—Clayton Brooks, The Oaks Fellowship, Red Oak, Texas; Elmer Cañas, Cornerstone Church, Nashville, Tennessee; Zachary Steven Loomis, Journey Community Church, Fairview Park, Ohio; and Chase Jordan Wagner, Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida—led a time of praise and worship. Doug Clay, general treasurer, offered prayer.

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison welcomed all attendees. A video about vision was shown announcing the Transform America project and encouraging everyone to participate in giving to this project to help plant new churches and strengthen existing churches. An offering was received for AG Trust.

Prior to the message, General Secretary James T. Bradford held an interview with Heath Adamson, senior ministry business director for Youth Ministries, about “Our Schools Matter,” encouraging churches to reach out to local schools in their areas.

The keynote message for the 56th General Council was brought by General Superintendent George O. Wood and was entitled *Stay Here?—2 Kings 2:1–25*. Using accounts of Old Testament prophets Elijah and Elisha as background, he expressed confidence in the capabilities of the upcoming generation of ministerial leaders. He urged the audience not to be content with memories of the past or the status quo. The walk with Elijah and Elisha has a lot to teach us about generational transfer of spiritual authority and power. Just as the Lord had a plan for one generation, so He has a plan for the next one. Wood encouraged pastors to always be on the lookout for young people who have



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leadership qualities. He stressed that we must spend the time and resources to make sure we effectively mentor the next generation, just as Elijah did with Elisha. The general superintendent stressed that we must keep walking in the Spirit, praying in the Spirit, and being empowered by the Spirit, so that we have the spiritual discernment and authority to deal with the poison in our culture. He urged those gathered not to fall prey to the prevailing attitudes of culture. As one generation steps off the stage, another comes on, and there will be a successful handoff to the next Pentecostal generation if that generation desires as earnestly as Elisha a double portion of the Spirit's power. He concluded his message by calling those who are zealous for a move of God's Spirit to come forward for prayer. An extended time of prayer followed as the general superintendent called for lead pastors, pastors, and students to come and be anointed with oil by members of the General Presbytery.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 5

### **Business Session**

The first business session of the 56th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, Wednesday, August 5, at 8:30 a.m. General Superintendent George O. Wood welcomed everyone and read from 1 Peter 5, giving a brief devotional about being a shepherd of God's flock. He offered an opening prayer. The business session was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

### **Introduction of Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery**

Chairman Wood recognized the executive presbyters: Dan C. Betzer, Southeast Area; Warren D. Bullock, Northwest Area; J. Don George, South Central Area; Saturnino Gonzalez, Language Area—East Spanish; A. Elizabeth Grant, Additional Representative—Ordained Female Minister; Larry H. Griswold, Great Lakes Area; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; Rodney K. Loy, Gulf Area; John E. Maracle, Ethnic Fellowships; Jesse Miranda, Jr., Language Area—West Spanish; T. Ray Rachels, Southwest Area; H. Robert Rhoden, Northeast Area; Brian C. Schmidgall, Additional Representative—Ordained Minister under 40 Years of Age; Clarence W. St. John, North Central Area.

He recognized the Executive Leadership Team: L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent; James T. Bradford, general secretary; Doug Clay, general treasurer; Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

### **Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters and Officers**

Chairman Wood expressed appreciation to the retired executive officers and presbyters: Almon M. Bartholomew, former executive presbyter, Northwest Area; L. John Bueno, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Charles T. Crabtree, former assistant general superintendent; Richard Dresselhaus, former

executive presbyter, Southwest Area; Charles E. Hackett, former executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; J. Foy Johnson, former executive presbyter, Southeast Area; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent; Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. The chairman expressed special appreciation for Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent.

### **Appreciation to Thomas E. Trask**

Chairman Wood brought greetings on behalf of Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent, as he is unable to be present at this General Council due to the recent hospitalization and health problems of his wife, Shirley. This is the first General Council that the former general superintendent has missed in 50 years.

A motion was moved, seconded, and carried to express love and appreciation to former General Superintendent Thomas E. and Shirley Trask.

### **Fraternal Delegates**

The general superintendent announced that an appreciation dinner is scheduled to be held on Thursday evening for visiting fraternal delegates from other Pentecostal denominations who will be in attendance at this General Council.

### **Expression of Appreciation to the City of Orlando, Florida**

Appreciation was expressed to the City of Orlando, Florida, Mayor John Hugh Buddy Dyer, and the Orange County Convention Services for their hospitality shown to the General Council delegates.

### **Expression of Appreciation to Orange County, Florida**

Appreciation was expressed to Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs and to Orange County, Florida.

### **Expression of Appreciation to Governor of the State of Florida**

The chairman expressed appreciation to Governor Rick Scott and to the State of Florida.

### **Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts**

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Brazilian District Council and Superintendent Joel F. Costa, the Peninsular Florida District Council and Superintendent Terrell R. Raburn, the Florida Multicultural District Council and Superintendent Saturnino Gonzalez, the West Florida District Council and Superintendent Thomas L. Moore for

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hosting this 56th General Council. He also expressed appreciation to the other Southeast Area district councils: the Alabama District Council and Superintendent Kenneth W. Draughon; the Georgia District Council and Superintendent Richard D. Collins; the North Carolina District Council and Superintendent Charles O. Kelly; the South Carolina District Council and Superintendent Victor E. Smith; and the Southern Latin District Council and Superintendent David E. Zayas.

### **Appreciation of National Leadership and Resource Center Personnel**

The chairman expressed appreciation to all of the National Leadership and Resource Center personnel who are serving in Orlando, Florida, and in Springfield, Missouri. He told of the many hours of tireless work that has occurred above and beyond the call of duty to provide for this convention.

### **Expression of Appreciation to General Council Committees**

The chairman acknowledged the General Council committees, expressing appreciation for their work in the various areas of this General Council. Those who served as members in the respective capacities are as follows:

#### *Budget*

Doug Clay, chairperson; Sol Arledge, Wini Arledge, Steve Blount, Susan Blount, James T. Bradford, L. Alton Garrison, Gregory M. Mundis, Gary Rhoades, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Tim Strathdee, George O. Wood

#### *Parliamentary*

Richard R. Hammar, chairperson; Charles F. Hefton, Jay A. Herndon

#### *Resolutions*

Donald H. Detrick, chairperson; Stephen E. Banning, Silvia E. Carrizo, Stefanie C. Chappell, Duane P. Durst, Michael Nelson, Carol A. Taylor.

#### *Roster*

Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson; Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson; Mark Christianson, liaison

#### *Spiritual Life*

George O. Wood, chairperson; L. Alton Garrison, Doug Clay, James T. Bradford, Gregory M. Mundis, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

#### *Tellers*

Micheal E. Dickenson, chairperson; Malcolm P. Burleigh, liaison; Emilio De La Cruz, Maria C. Garcia, Stanley E. Holder, Mark E. Jakelsky, Monty R. Sears, David Vistine

## **National Operational Committees**

### *Program Committee*

George O. Wood, chairperson; L. Alton Garrison, Doug Clay, James T. Bradford, Gregory M. Mundis, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

### *Management Team*

Sol Arledge, Wini Arledge, Steve Blount, Susan Blount, Gary Rhoades, Tim Strathdee

### *Program Resource Committee*

Sol Arledge, team leader; Wini Arledge, Yvette Arledge, Heath Adamson, Steve Blount, Eliza Delgado, Michella Duque, Ramona Edgman, Mark Entzminger, Mark Forrester, John Hartley, Sharon Lee, Thomas Matrone, Sharla Moody, Alli Pool, Charity Reeb, Gary Rhoades, Trina Russell, Tim Strathdee, Cary VanKampen, Dan Castor, resource

### *Camp GC*

Mark Entzminger, team leader; Patti Chapman, Whitney Cox

### *Equipment*

Don Lander, team leader; Greg Brown, Terry Chapman, Mike Cooper, Joel Dense, Eric Goss, Jon Harrell, Jeff Brown

### *Event Management/Services Team*

Sharon Lee, team leader; Dan Bull, Janell Campbell, Kathi Divine, Paul Griffin, Lori Lawley, Sheila Mixer, Amanda White; team resources: Dan Castor, Drew Perry

### *Exhibits/Sponsorships*

Sharon Lee, team leader; Carl Dunn, Norm Gannon, Keith Surface, Amanda White; team resources: Drew Perry, Carl and Ellie Dunn, Jan Dean

### *Finance/Accounting*

Gary Rhoades, team leader; Michella Duque, Janice Hayes, Shari Klassen, Aron Vad

### *Guest Services*

Beth Carroll, team leader; Hilary Hartman, Jan Meese, Heather Scranton, Joy Sorbo, Helen Wray

### *Hospitality*

Eliza Delgado, team leader; Amber Brantner, Christie Entzminger, Billy Hartman, Misty Hawley, Joy Wootton

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### *Influence Conference*

Sol Arledge, team leader; Wini Arledge, Heath Adamson, Trevor Birch, Eliza Delgado, Chris Railey, Charity Reeb

### *Prayer Activities*

John Maempa, chairperson; Non-employees: Freedom Fellowship International, Waxahachie, Texas

### *Printed Materials*

Jennifer Harvey, Trina Russell, Paul Smith, Esther Wood

### *Promotions/Communications*

Anna Evans, Mark Forrester, Daniel Guy, Charity Reeb, Keith Surface, Jorge Tobar

### *Council Today*

Josh Babyar, team leader; Bill Campbell, Randy Clute, Keith Surface, Dan Van Veen

### *Registration*

Sheila Mixer, team leader; Esther Axmark, Esther Bevis, Elizabeth Campbell, George Carson, Elois Espinoza, Becky Harp, Pat Jeffers, Karissa Jefferson, Brion Lamar, Steve Mixer, Barbara Risner, Stephanie Williams, Virginia Williams

### *Technology/IT Support*

Tim Strathdee, team leader; Fred Behling, Lucas Cornwell, Sam Cornwell, Brandon Cranor, Bruce Harp, Chris Hill, Darrin Hull, John Ivaska, Jay Klika, Paula Lamar, Helen Piper, Larry Quackenbush, Kelly Rhea, Sid Stafford, Matt Williams

### *Translations*

Sharon Lee, team leader; Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Karla Babin, Efraim Espinoza, Spanish coordinator; David Robb, Janie Schwyhart, Stephanie Winslow

### *Transportation*

Eliza Delgado, team leader; Christina and Josh Bates, Erin Buskirk, company pilot; Kathi Divine, Devin and Ruthie Lawley, Keith and Susan Putman, Ron and Debbie Sherman

### *Ushers/Communion*

Wade Trivitt, team leader; Rhonda Curtis, Eliza Delgado, Sharon Lee, Monica Montalvo, Pete Tarka

### *Youth Ministries*

Heath Adamson, team leader; Billy Hartman, Misty Hawley, Jayne Montera, Chad Phillips, Cary VanKampen

## **Business Agenda**

The business agenda contained in the General Council Voter Guide will serve as a guide for this meeting.

### **General Superintendent's Report**

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of the chairman during the report of the general superintendent, and he introduced General Superintendent George O. Wood.

The general superintendent presented the report of the general superintendent. He expressed his thankfulness for the privilege of serving the General Council over the past 22 years and provided statistical information with an account of the historical work of the Lord Jesus Christ within our Movement, stating that God has richly put His hand upon this Fellowship.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general superintendent and express appreciation to George O. Wood.

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

### **Assistant General Superintendent's Report**

L. Alton Garrison presented the report of the assistant general superintendent telling some history of how he and his wife, Johanna, became a part of the Assemblies of God; and, he expressed his gratefulness for the highest privilege he has to serve God, the Church, and the Assemblies of God. He reported that the general superintendent asked him to transition from the leadership of Church Ministries to a new role with Healthy Church Network, due to his passion to transform churches. This ministry has now been named Church Transformation Initiative (CTI). He stressed that every church has a next-level potential to be more focused on the Great Commission. He is looking forward to leading this initiative.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the assistant general superintendent and express appreciation to L. Alton Garrison.

### **General Secretary's Report**

James T. Bradford presented the general secretary's report and expressed the honor that it is to serve the general superintendent, the Executive Leadership Team, and Executive Presbytery; and, he especially gave thanks to the body for the privilege of serving as the general secretary. He provided statistical information for ministers and churches and referenced the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, the largest Pentecostal archive in the world. He encouraged everyone to go to their Web site to see an overview of the resources.

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A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general secretary and express appreciation to James T. Bradford.

**General Treasurer's Report and  
General Council Audit Report**

General Treasurer Doug Clay and Gary Rhoades, chief financial officer, presented the general treasurer's report which included the financial report of the General Council and its affiliates as well as the Audit Report and Summary. The general treasurer reported that the General Council has received a clean and unqualified opinion from the audit firm BKD. He reported the General Council's fiscal year is from April 1–March 31.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general treasurer and express appreciation to Doug Clay.

A motion prevailed to accept the General Council Audit Report.

**Roster Report**

The general superintendent expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Roster Committee. Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 9 a.m., Wednesday morning, August 5, 2015:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,032	
Licensed	472	
Delegates	236	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	286	
Voting Constituency		3,046

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,112	
Auxiliary Staff	115	
Certified	262	
General Attendees	8,604	
Guests	56	
Other	693	
Staff	216	
Kids Council	487	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,700	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>18,245</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION		21,291

A motion prevailed to accept the report.

## **Electronic Voting Instructions**

The General Council used an electronic voting system. Mark Christianson, General Council Information Technology, presented the electronic voting instructions. The delegates were instructed that in order to participate in the voting they would need to register their voting devices with their voter identification number. Opportunity was given to register voting devices. The chairman declared the voting device registration closed.

## **Election of Assistant General Superintendent**

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of the assistant general superintendent. The ballot was cast for the election of the assistant general superintendent and the chairman declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Total votes cast	1,549
Invalid votes	6
Votes needed to elect	1,033
L. Alton Garrison	1,058

Having noted that L. Alton Garrison received the number of votes in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chairman declared L. Alton Garrison reelected to the position of assistant general superintendent for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

The chairman introduced L. Alton Garrison and asked Johanna Garrison to join him on the platform. L. Alton Garrison expressed his thanks to the body for their love, their prayers and support, and for the vote of confidence. He stated that it is a privilege and an honor to serve the Lord and this Fellowship.

Following is a list of all other nominees: Damon J. Ables 1, Christopher R. Adams 1, Heath Adamson 5, Bret L. Allen 5, Adam P. Altermatt 1, Eric K. Angeles 1, J. David Arnett 1, Terry G. Bailey 1, Douglas R. Banks 1, John C. Bates 1, Mark A. Batterson 1, Michael J. Beals 1, Christopher N. Beard 1, Daniel P. Bell 1, Matthew J. Bell 1, Dan C. Betzer 5, Gary J. Blanchard 2, James R. Braddy 1, James T. Bradford 18, James A. Bradford III 2, Jerry A. Brooks 2, Otis T. Buchan Jr. 1, J. Kenneth Burtram 1, Billy P. Cain 1, Joshua B. Canales 1, Katherine M. K. Cannon 1, H. Franklin Cargill 8, Craig W. Carter 1, Vance A. Cauthon 1, Michael H. Clarensau 2, Douglas E. Clay 54, Richard A. Clay 1, Carl J. Colletti 6, Grant W. Collins 1, Richard D. Collins 1, G. Robert Cook Jr. 1, Christopher L. Cooper 1, Dawn R. Corlew 1, Maria L. Correa 1, Charles T. Crabtree 1, Floyd J. Cuccia Sr. 1, Gregory K. Davis 2, Wilfredo De Jesus 55, Perry R. Dismore 1, Richard W. Dubose 28, Ryan W. DuBose 1, John E. Dumas 1, Dennis R. Duron 1, George A. Edgerly 1, Timothy N. Enloe 1, Nancyjean Eubanks 1, Aureliano Flores 1, Paul A. Flores 1, Esther Gamez 1, Bryan M. Garfield 1, William C. Garrison 1, Darrell J. Geddes 1, Mark L. Geer 1, J. Don George 3, Theodore Gianopulos 1, Bruce S. Gibbons Jr. 1, Saturnino Gonzalez 22,



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Saul D. Gonzalez 4, Keith E. Grabill 1, A. Elizabeth Grant 7, Daniel M. Greco 1, Thomas W. Greene 3, Larry H. Griswold 1, Richard M. Guerra 2, Richard C. Gurganus 1, Scott A. Hagan 2, Andy C. Harris 5, Stephen L. Harris 1, John P. Heckathorn 1, Maricela H. Hernandez 1, Robert D. Hogan 2, Scott Holmes 1, Gary L. Hoyt 1, Samuel M. Huddleston 2, Joe Hunkin Jr. 2, Randy Hurst 2, Robert O. Hutson Jr. 1, Donald A. James 1, Bobby L. Johnson 1, Elwyn N. Johnston 1, Troy H. Jones 2, Peter A. Joudry 1, Perry L. Kallevig 4, Paul S. Kazim 1, Charles O. Kelly 1, Ronald J. Kelley 2, Robert Ketterling II, 3, Nam Soo Kim 3, Kurt H. Kinney 1, William N. Kirk 2, Todd C. Kirkpatrick 1, Bryon D. Klaus 2, Klayton Ko 1, Aaron A. Kramer 1, Wendell E. Kruger 1, Thomas D. Lakey 1, Brian J. Lane 2, William F. Leach 1, Alexander F. Ledoux 1, Clarence E. Lee 1, Wayne H. Lee 1, Mark A. Lehmann 3, Larry A. Liebe 1, John E. Lindell 4, Sharen R. Long 1, Rodney K. Loy 8, S. Robert Maddox 2, Tony T. Mageo 1, Jim R. Mannon 1, John E. Maracle 1, Ronald M. Markese 1, Dennis W. Marquardt 1, Mike R. McClaffin 1, Josefa Mendoza 1, Don E. Miller 3, Jesse Miranda Jr. 1, Larry Moore 2, Thomas L. Moore 1, Justin A. Myers 1, Jeffrey A. Ogg 1, James A. Palmer 1, John M. Palmer 1, Michael A. Patz 1, Benjamin K. Perez 1, Gary I. Pilcher 1, Darin F. Poli 2, Terrell R. Raburn 4, T. Ray Rachels 1, Benjamin E. Rainey Jr. 1, Glenn S. Reynolds Jr. 1, Jim D. Rion 1, Dennis J. Rivera 2, Francisco Rodriguez 1, Bradley H. Rosenberg 1, D. Rick Ross 1, Randal L. Ross 1, Brian D. Russell 1, Edward J. Russo 1, Karen C. Rydwansky 2, Ricke J. Schlossin 1, Delana Ingram Small 1, Zollie L. Smith Jr. 1, Alton C. Smith 1, Clarence W. St. John 2, Jerry A. Strandquist 1, Jeul Strickland 2, Jonathan N. Susa 2, Le Roy J. Terry 1, Stephen R. Tourville 3, Lila J. Townsend 1, Bradley T. Trask 8, Randy L. Valimont 9, Jimmy Vigil 1, Garry L. Wiggins 1, Richard P. Wilkerson 1, David R. Williams 1, Bruce D. Williamson 1, Ruben A. Wilson Jr. 1, W. Scott Wilson 1, William E. Wilson 1, George O. Wood 31, George Paul Wood 1, Joel A. Woodward 2, John R. Wootton 3, Terry L. Yancey 1, Scott Young 4

### **Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions Report**

Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, presented the Assemblies of God World Missions report, rejoicing at the various missions statistics he presented, but telling that we cannot measure ourselves by what has been done but by the unfinished task. He solicited the prayers of the body for people to be able to stand up for Jesus. He also expressed his thanks to the body for having compassion to reach the lost.

A motion prevailed to accept the report from Assemblies of God World Missions and express appreciation to Gregory M. Mundis.

Nam Soo Kim, executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other, led in a prayer for the lost.

## **Election of General Secretary**

Doug Clay, general treasurer, read Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph b, pertaining to the election of general secretary and executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and the chairman reported the General Presbytery's nominee for general secretary is James T. Bradford.

Mark Christianson gave instructions to the delegates to place their vote of "1" for "yes" or "2" for "no," and the chairman called for the vote of the general secretary with the nominee to be James T. Bradford for the position of general secretary. The chairman called to limit the time for voting to one minute, and the body responded in agreement. The electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the elective ballot for the office of general secretary:

Total votes cast	1,656
Needed to elect	1,104
Yes votes	1,578
No votes	78

Having noted that James T. Bradford received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chairman declared James T. Bradford reelected to the position of general secretary for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

The general superintendent invited Sandi Bradford to join her husband, James T. Bradford, on the platform. General Secretary James T. Bradford responded by thanking this body for the incredible gift that has been given to him to serve this amazing Fellowship. He also expressed his thanks to his wife and his National Leadership and Resource Center staff.

## **Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Report**

Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, presented the report from Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and shared about the financial growth that has occurred in Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. He announced three new leaders in Assemblies of God U.S. Missions—Manuel A. Cordero, II, newly appointed director of Chaplaincy Ministries; Billy D. Thomas, Sr., newly appointed director of Mission America Placement Service (MAPS); and Joseph S. Batluck, Sr., newly appointed director of Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.

The executive director expressed his thanks to his administrative staff, department leaders, and missionaries who have worked to fulfill this financial goal. He expressed his thanks to this body and reminded everyone of the U.S. Missions banquet to be held on Wednesday night (tonight).

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A motion prevailed to accept the report from Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and express appreciation to Zollie L. Smith, Jr. J. Don George, executive presbyter for the South Central Area, offered prayer on behalf of Zollie L. Smith, Jr., and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

**Election of Executive Director  
Assemblies of God World Missions**

The general superintendent called for the vote of the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and reported the General Presbytery’s nominee for executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions is Gregory M. Mundis.

Mark Christianson gave instructions to the delegates to place their vote of “1” for “yes” or “2” for “no,” and the chairman called for the vote of the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions with the nominee to be Gregory M. Mundis for the position of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. The electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the elective ballot for the office of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	1,597
Needed to elect	1,065
Yes votes	1,543
No votes	54

Having noted that Gregory M. Mundis received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chairman declared Gregory M. Mundis reelected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

The general superintendent invited Sandra Mundis to join her husband, Gregory M. Mundis, on the platform. Executive Director Gregory M. Mundis expressed his gratefulness to the body for its vote of confidence. He thanked his wife for standing by him, the district officials for their support, the Assemblies of God World Missions Executive Committee for their friendship and amazing leadership, his administrative staff, his colleagues on the Executive Leadership Team, and most of all his Lord Jesus Christ for saving him and directing his life.

**Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area**

The general superintendent presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area. Mark Christianson gave voting instructions to the delegates. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

## **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 10:13 a.m. for the Communion service and a message from Saturnino Gonzalez, executive presbyter of the Language Area—East Spanish, with the business session to reconvene at 2:30 p.m.

## **Communion Service/Memorial Scroll**

The Communion service was held at the Orange County Convention Center. The Influence Worship Band led in worship, along with Alexandria De Jesus-Gomez, worship leader at New Life Covenant Assemblies of God, who ministered in special song.

General Superintendent George O. Wood introduced Saturnino Gonzalez who brought the message. He introduced his wife and family and opened his message by telling about his upbringing and how blessed he is to have had a Christian upbringing. He shared from the Gospel of John, chapters 13–17, and his message detailed six important lessons that Jesus communicated to His disciples at the Passover dinner:

1. Jesus left the table to wash the disciples' feet—we should be servants who are known for our love and humility.
2. Operate with an assured heart and not a troubled heart—dismiss agitation, embrace faith, and trust in God.
3. Desire a permanent presence rather than a short-term rescue—operate in the Holy Spirit and let Him be a permanent helper.
4. Be fruitful rather than ornamental—stay connected to Jesus and His mission, be relevant, and fulfill God's plan.
5. Allow divine assistance rather than natural insights—let the Holy Spirit complete the teaching of Jesus to guide us into truth and glorify Christ.
6. Offer prayers of gratitude rather than expressions of distress—Jesus ended the meal with prayer that included praise, worship, and glorification of the Father.

Saturnino Gonzalez closed his message with a prayer for God's purpose to be fulfilled.

The Memorial Scroll, a video scroll listing the names of 891 ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council, was shown. The general superintendent asked for family members of those listed on the Scroll to stand. General Secretary James T. Bradford offered prayer for comfort and grace to the family members.

General Superintendent George O. Wood presided during the Communion service and was assisted by members of the Executive Leadership Team. The general superintendent closed the service by leading in singing and praise.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 79.

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 5

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the Wednesday afternoon session at 2:30 p.m. and prayer was offered by Warren D. Bullock, executive presbyter of the Northwest Area. The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. and announced for all voting members to prepare to log on to the voting system.

### **Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award**

Marilyn K. Abplanalp, president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Administrator Awards and expressed her thanks to the body for its support of Assemblies of God schools. She recognized H. Glynn Hall, Southwestern Assemblies of God University, and Danny Schimelpfenig, Northwest University, as recipients of the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award. The following resolutions were presented during the Educators Luncheon:

#### **H. Glynn Hall**

- Whereas, The Reverend Doctor H. Glynn Hall has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator and faculty member, and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Hall has served the Lord as president at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 1987 to 1990, and has served as a dean at Southwestern Assemblies of God University from 1996 to 2009, and is currently dean emeritus at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, and has been nominated by the Southwestern Assemblies of God University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Hall, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session December 12, 2014, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session, recognizes Doctor H. Glynn Hall as having been a distinguished administrator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery express thanksgiving to our Lord who appointed Doctor Hall among those with gifts of administration and leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:8); and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 5, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.

### **Danny Schimelpfenig**

Whereas, Reverend Dan Schimelpfenig has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and

Whereas, Reverend Schimelpfenig has served as the vice president of Administrative Services and chief financial officer at Northwest University from 1991 to 2012 and has been nominated by the Northwest University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

Whereas, Reverend Schimelpfenig, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session December 12, 2014, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore

Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session, recognizes Reverend Dan Schimelpfenig as having been a distinguished administrator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery express thanksgiving to our Lord who appointed Reverend Dan Schimelpfenig among those with gifts of administration and leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:8); and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 5, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.

### **Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards**

Marilyn K. Abplanalp, president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards. She introduced the following who had been honored during the Educators Luncheon: Leslie A. Crabtree, North Central University; William C. Hackett, Jr., Southeastern University; Douglas A. Oss, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. The following resolutions were presented to each one:

**Leslie A. Crabtree**

- Whereas, Doctor Leslie A. Crabtree has distinguished herself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Crabtree has served the Lord as a professor at North Central University of the Assemblies of God from 1981 to the present, and has been nominated by the North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Crabtree having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session December 12, 2014, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session, recognizes Doctor Leslie Crabtree as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for her faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Crabtree among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,” (Ephesians 4:12); and, be it further
- Resolved, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 5, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.

**William C. Hackett, Jr.**

- Whereas, The Reverend Doctor William C. Hackett, Jr., has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Hackett has served the Lord as a professor at Southeastern University from 1988 to the present, and has served as the vice president for Academic Affairs for Southeastern University from 1992 to 1998, and has served as the provost at Southeastern University from 2011 to the present, and has been nominated by the Southeastern University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

- Whereas, Doctor Hackett having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session December 12, 2014, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session, recognizes Doctor William C. Hackett, Jr., as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Hackett among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,” (Ephesians 4:12); and, be it further
- Resolved, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 5, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.

**Douglas A. Oss**

- Whereas, The Reverend Doctor Douglas A. Oss has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Oss has served the Lord as a professor at Valley Forge Christian College from 1984 to 1988, Central Bible College from 1988 to 1997 and from 2004 to 2005, and has served as a professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 2005 to the present, and has been nominated by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- Whereas, Doctor Oss having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session December 12, 2014, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session, recognizes Doctor Douglas A. Oss as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further



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Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Oss among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,” (Ephesians 4:12); and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 5, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.

**Roster Report**

Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 2:17 p.m., Wednesday afternoon, August 5, 2015:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,057	
Licensed	481	
Delegates	239	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	288	
	Voting Constituency	3,085

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,125	
Auxiliary Staff	115	
Certified	263	
General Attendees	8,806	
Guests	67	
Other	906	
Staff	216	
Kids Council	488	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,701	
	Nonvoting Constituency	<u>18,687</u>
	TOTAL REGISTRATION	21,772

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

**Electronic Voting Instructions**

Mark Christianson presented instructions for logging on to the voting devices and opportunity was given for all voting delegates to log on to the electronic voting system.

**Appreciation to Executive Management Team and Staff**

The general superintendent expressed his appreciation to the Gospel Publishing House staff for all the work being done at home and in the exhibit hall. He also expressed his appreciation to the Executive Management Team and all the leadership who have worked long hours to put this event together.

### Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area (cont.)

The chairman called for the report of the first elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,256
Invalid votes	33
Needed to elect	838
Garry L. Brackett	58
David W. Dillon	68
Donald G. Gifford	73
Joseph S. Girdler	80
Larry H. Griswold	301
David L. Gross	34
R. Jeffrey Hlavin	48
John K. Jordan	56
Phillip B. Schneider	53
Bradley T. Trask	297
John R. Wootton	155

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area, and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,408
Invalid votes	36
Needed to elect	939
Garry L. Brackett	79
David W. Dillon	30
Donald G. Gifford	26
Joseph S. Girdler	38
Larry H. Griswold	556
David L. Gross	10
R. Jeffrey Hlavin	9
John K. Jordan	14
Phillip B. Schneider	18
Bradley T. Trask	478
John R. Wootton	114

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Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area, and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the third elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,450
Invalid votes	17
Needed to elect	967
Garry L. Brackett	35
David W. Dillon	12
Donald G. Gifford	13
Joseph S. Girdler	16
Larry H. Griswold	760
David L. Gross	4
R. Jeffrey Hlavin	1
John K. Jordan	5
Phillip B. Schneider	6
Bradley T. Trask	523
John R. Wootton	58

Since there was no election, a fourth elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area, and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the fourth elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,458
Invalid votes	14
Needed to elect	972
Larry H. Griswold	910
Bradley T. Trask	476
John R. Wootton	58

Since there was no election, a fifth elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area, and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the fifth elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,429
Invalid votes	6
Needed to elect	953
Larry H. Griswold	1,129
Bradley T. Trask	258
John R. Wootton	36

Having noted that Larry H. Griswold received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Larry H. Griswold reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

### **Electronic Voting Question**

A voting delegate who was unable to log on to the electronic voting system asked if it would be possible to allow those who arrived late to log on to the system. The chairman responded that it would not be possible to reboot the voting system midsession due to timing difficulties. The chairman apologized and indicated that the afternoon session's log-in took place 10 minutes after the beginning of the session to allow some who might be running late to have a cushion of time before registering the devices.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area**

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	1,396
Invalid votes	8
Needed to elect	931
Damon J. (Jeff) Ables	65
Terry G. Bailey	54
Gregory K. Davis	31
Scott Holmes	52
Rodney K. Loy	682
B. Randel McCarty	32
Don E. Miller	129
Larry Moore	174
George Westlake III	131
Robert B. Wilburn	38

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area, and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	1,434
Invalid votes	3
Needed to elect	956
Damon J. (Jeff) Ables	27
Terry G. Bailey	10
Gregory K. Davis	14
Scott Holmes	13
Rodney K. Loy	1,116
B. Randel McCarty	4
Don E. Miller	45
Larry Moore	111
George Westlake III	82
Robert B. Wilburn	9

Having noted that Rodney K. Loy received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Rodney K. Loy reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Gulf Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

**Resolution 8. Honorary General Presbyter—Douglas E. Fulenwider**

Silvia E. Carrizo, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 8 and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Douglas E. Fulenwider has served as a general presbyter of the General Council for twenty-four years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served six years as an executive presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, He has served as superintendent of the Louisiana District Council for twenty years; and
- WHEREAS, Douglas E. Fulenwider meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 101, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Douglas E. Fulenwider be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 9. Honorary General Presbyter—James R. Jackson**

Stephen E. Banning, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 9 and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, James R. Jackson has served the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God as a pastor, presbyter, executive presbyter, and general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, He has served the North Texas District Council as secretary-treasurer for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the District Presbytery combined with the aforementioned District Council executive office for a total of 26 years of distinguished elected service; and

WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the North Texas District Council but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God through his service on the General Presbytery for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, and faithfulness in ministry and service; and

WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those whose service among us has represented the highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, diligence, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, James R. Jackson meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 101, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That James R. Jackson be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area**

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,262
Invalid votes	3
Needed to elect	842
Kenneth J. Bosse	33
J. Kenneth Burtram	67
Carl J. Colletti	100
Duane P. Durst	291
Donald A. James	104
Bryan D. Koch	90
Mark A. Lehmann	202
Dennis W. Marquardt	69
Timothy P. Schmidt	48
Jerry W. Terry	53
Stephen R. Tourville	125
Robert Wise Jr.	77

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,377
Invalid votes	1
Needed to elect	918
Kenneth J. Bosse	13
J. Kenneth Burtram	22
Carl J. Colletti	44
Duane P. Durst	747
Donald A. James	56
Bryan D. Koch	22
Mark A. Lehmann	311
Dennis W. Marquardt	14
Timothy P. Schmidt	7
Jerry W. Terry	10

Stephen R. Tourville	106
Robert Wise Jr.	24

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the third elective ballot for executive presbyter for the Northeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,390
Invalid votes	2
Needed to elect	927
Kenneth J. Bosse	6
J. Kenneth Burtram	1
Carl J. Colletti	10
Duane P. Durst	1,140
Donald A. James	12
Bryan D. Koch	7
Mark A. Lehmann	162
Dennis W. Marquardt	2
Timothy P. Schmidt	5
Jerry W. Terry	2
Stephen R. Tourville	32
Robert Wise Jr.	9

Having noted that Duane P. Durst received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Duane P. Durst elected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Northeast Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

### **Resolution 12. Honorary General Presbyter—William F. Leach**

Michael Nelson, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 12 and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

- WHEREAS, William F. Leach has faithfully served this Fellowship with distinction as a pastor and district leader for over 43 years; and
- WHEREAS, He admirably served the Michigan District Council as superintendent for 27 years with distinction; and
- WHEREAS, He served Bethany Assembly of God in Adrian, Michigan, as pastor for 17 years, leading the church to growth, ministry impact, and significant World Missions giving; and



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- WHEREAS, He served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for 27 years, as well as serving on other national boards and committees; and
- WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been impacted by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, integrity, diligence, perseverance, and love; and
- WHEREAS, His preaching, personal ministry, and friendship have been a great resource to the ministers and churches of the Michigan District Council; and
- WHEREAS, William F. Leach meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 101, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That William F. Leach be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 13. Honorary General Presbyter—H. Robert Rhoden**

Carol A. Taylor, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 13 and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 13 as follows:

- WHEREAS, H. Robert Rhoden has served the Potomac District Council of the Assemblies of God as a pastor, presbyter, executive presbyter, and general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the Potomac District Council as superintendent for fifteen years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on the District Presbytery combined with the aforementioned District Council executive office for a total of twenty-six years; and
- WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the Potomac District Council but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for fifteen years and an executive presbyter for nine years totaling twenty-four years of service; and

- WHEREAS, H. Robert Rhoden meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 101, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That H. Robert Rhoden be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area**

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,296
Invalid votes	5
Needed to elect	864
Dan C. Betzer	535
Larry S. Burgbacher	49
Richard D. Collins	48
Kenneth W. Draughon	61
Phil F. Edwards	25
Charles O. Kelly	23
John A. Loper Jr.	35
Ronald F. McManus	191
Thomas L. Moore	56
Victor E. Smith	8
Randy L. Valimont	260

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

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Total votes cast	1,256
Invalid votes	3
Needed to elect	838
Dan C. Betzer	823
Larry S. Burgbacher	9
Richard D. Collins	7
Kenneth W. Draughon	14
Phil F. Edwards	3
Charles O. Kelly	3
John A. Loper Jr.	6
Ronald F. McManus	79
Thomas L. Moore	12
Victor E. Smith	2
Randy L. Valimont	295

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the third elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,392
Invalid votes	2
Needed to elect	928
Dan C. Betzer	1,113
Larry S. Burgbacher	1
Richard D. Collins	5
Kenneth W. Draughon	12
Phil F. Edwards	2
Charles O. Kelly	1
John A. Loper Jr.	3
Ronald F. McManus	30
Thomas L. Moore	5
Victor E. Smith	4
Randy L. Valimont	214

Having noted that Dan C. Betzer received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Dan C. Betzer reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Southeast Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

**Resolution 7. New District—Northwest Hispanic District Council**

Silvia E. Carrizo, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 7 and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 7 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The Northern Pacific Latin American District Council, comprised of Alaska, Northern California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, in 2012, adopted a petition to establish the Northwest Hispanic Conference, comprised of the states of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington, with the purpose of gradually forming a new district; and
- WHEREAS, The Northwest Hispanic Conference agreed to fulfill the guidelines for the formation of a new district and adopted the name Northwest Hispanic District; and
- WHEREAS, On October 18, 2013, the District Presbytery and the voting constituency of the Northern Pacific Latin American District Council approved that the Northwest Hispanic Conference be recognized as a new sovereign district of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The Northwest Hispanic Conference meets the guidelines of location, size, and maturity as prescribed in the formation of new districts, according to General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 1, paragraph b. Guidelines; and
- WHEREAS, The Northwest Hispanic Conference has grown and developed with 52 churches, together with 65 credentialed ministers, 27 of them ordained, and three Bible Institute sites with approximately 40 students registered; and
- WHEREAS, The geographical distance between the churches in the Northwest Hispanic Conference and the Northern Pacific Latin American District has made it difficult in times of processing credentials, advancing ministry, and traveling to district council conventions; and
- WHEREAS, The Northwest Hispanic Conference complies with the minimum guidelines as described in Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 1. Formation of New Districts and Section 6. Language/Ethnic Districts, paragraph a. Recognition qualifications, of the General Council Bylaws; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the General Council Executive Presbytery to establish new district councils in cooperative agreement with the districts involved; and, the General Council Executive Presbytery, during its November 12–13, 2013 meeting, approved the formation of the Northwest Hispanic District Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c (2) (a), *Language Area—West Spanish*, page 108, which presently reads:

*Language Area—West Spanish*: Central District/Distrito Central, Northern Pacific Latin American, South Central Hispanic, Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Gulf Spanish, Texas Louisiana Hispanic, West Texas and Plains.

Be amended to read:

*Language Area—West Spanish*: Central District/Distrito Central, Northern Pacific Latin American, Northwest Hispanic, South Central Hispanic, Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Gulf Spanish, Texas Louisiana Hispanic, West Texas and Plains.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—East Spanish**

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish:

Total votes cast	1,305
Invalid votes	1
Needed to elect	870
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	644
Saturnino Gonzalez	436
Ramon L. Hernandez	11
Clemente Maldonado Jr.	40
Doris Quiros	109
Rafael Reyes	32
Edward Rodriguez	18
David E. Zayas	14

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish:

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Total votes cast	1,191
Invalid votes	1
Needed to elect	794
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	771
Saturnino Gonzalez	355
Ramon L. Hernandez	5
Clemente Maldonado Jr.	2
Doris Quiros	51
Rafael Reyes	3
Edward Rodriguez	2
David E. Zayas	1

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the third elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish:

Total votes cast	1,207
Invalid votes	1
Needed to elect	805
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	898
Saturnino Gonzalez	269
Ramon L. Hernandez	3
Clemente Maldonado Jr.	2
Doris Quiros	27
Rafael Reyes	1
Edward Rodriguez	2
David E. Zayas	4

Having noted that Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus elected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—East Spanish for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

### **Expression of Appreciation**

The general superintendent expressed his thanks and appreciation to Saturnino Gonzalez, executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish, for his past service to the Executive Presbytery.

### **Resolution 11. Vacancy of Executive Officers**

Carol A. Taylor, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 11 and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 11 as follows:

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WHEREAS, Filling vacancies in executive offices is addressed in Article II, Section 3, paragraph a, of the General Council Bylaws, which provides in relevant part:

**a. Executive officers.** In the event any of the executive offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council; with the exception that, in the event of death or incapacity of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council; or, in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

WHEREAS, In regard to vacancies in the office of general superintendent, a vacancy due to "death or incapacity" is filled by the assistant general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The word "incapacity" is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as "the quality or state of being incapable; especially [due to a] lack of physical or intellectual power or of natural or legal qualifications"; and

WHEREAS, This definition does not unequivocally encompass a vacancy due to a midterm resignation from office by a general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, It would be desirable to clearly resolve this potential ambiguity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 3, paragraph a, page 110, which currently reads:

**a. Executive officers.** In the event any of the executive offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council; with the exception that, in the event of death or incapacity of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council; or, in the

event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

Be amended to read:

**a. Executive officers.** In the event any of the executive offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council; with the exception that, in the event of ~~death or incapacity of the general superintendent~~ a vacancy in the office of general superintendent for any reason, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council; or, in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter Language Area—Other**

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other:

Total votes cast	1,165
Invalid votes	2
Needed to elect	777
Young-kyoo Doo	75
Nam Soo Kim	656
Sung Soo Kim	51
Young Gil Kim	56
Alexander F. Ledoux	55
Daniel J. Miller	103
Darnell Williams Sr.	167



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Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other:

Total votes cast	1,209
Invalid votes	1
Needed to elect	806
Young-kyoo Doo	33
Nam Soo Kim	1,045
Sung Soo Kim	13
Young Gil Kim	1
Alexander F. Ledoux	18
Daniel J. Miller	23
Darnell Williams Sr.	75

Having noted that Nam Soo Kim received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Nam Soo Kim reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

**Election of Executive Presbyter—Additional Representation  
Ordained Female Minister**

The general secretary presented the following four nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister as selected by the General Presbytery:

Jodi L. Detrick  
A. Elizabeth (Beth) Grant  
Maricela H. Hernandez  
Judy R. Rachels

The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister:

Total votes cast	1,140
Invalid votes	3
Needed to elect	760

Jodi L. Detrick	180
A. Elizabeth (Beth) Grant	568
Maricela H. Hernandez	247
Judy R. Rachels	142

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister:

Total votes cast	1,174
Invalid votes	3
Needed to elect	783
Jodi L. Detrick	80
A. Elizabeth (Beth) Grant	845
Maricela H. Hernandez	216
Judy R. Rachels	30

Having noted that A. Elizabeth Grant received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared A. Elizabeth Grant reelected as the additional representative on the Executive Presbytery to represent ordained female ministers for a 4-year term to expire in 2019.

### **Resolution 1. Nonresident Executive Presbyter Term Limits (Resolution 2. Term Limits for Nonresident Executive Presbyters)**

Donald H. Detrick, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1 and moved its adoption. The Resolutions Committee chairperson offered an amendment to Resolution 1, on behalf of the General Presbytery, to strike the words “or less” from page 7, line 3, and moved its adoption. The full sentence beginning on page 7, line 2, will read as follows: “A nonresident executive presbyter, who has completed three consecutive four-year terms, is eligible to be nominated and elected again after having not served for four years.” The motion to amend Resolution 1 was carried.

M. Ray Brewer, superintendent of the Northern Missouri District Council, expressed concern that Resolution 1 and Resolution 2. Term Limits for Nonresident Executive Presbyters, as submitted by the Northern Missouri District Council, could be considered in conflict according to Robert’s Rules of Order, with a result that the consideration of Resolution 1 would make Resolution 2 out of order. Therefore, he made a motion to amend the amended Resolution 1 by substituting Resolution 2 for Resolution 1, and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

The chairman clarified the substitution as being two basic changes: instead of three

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terms being allowed in Resolution 1, it would make the term limits for two terms; and, instead of permitting an executive presbyter who has served previously to sit out for four years and possibly be reelected again, it would eliminate that possibility because the maximum anyone could serve would be for eight years. The chairman also clarified that should either of these resolutions be adopted that the implementation would take effect for the next General Council—elections taken at this General Council would remain in place.

A vote was taken to substitute Resolution 2 for the amended Resolution 1. Having noted that the motion to amend Resolution 1 by substituting Resolution 2 did not receive the more than the two-thirds vote required for a constitutional amendment, the chairman declared the motion was lost. The substitute Resolution 2 as presented follows:

- WHEREAS, The membership of the General Council has shown through past legislation a desire for its governing body to reflect the diverse cultural, ethnic, generational, and gender representation of the membership of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council increased the number of general presbyters to accommodate the growth of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council increased the required number of ordained ministers under age 40 on the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council increased the required number of ordained women ministers on the General Presbytery to adequately reflect the composition of ministers within the General Council; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council modified its composition by the addition of an executive presbyter under 40 years of age, the addition of an ordained female minister, and the addition of ethnic representation on the Executive Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God holds to the truth that the Lord in His sovereignty works through all His people and is not limited to working exclusively through one individual; and
- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God was founded as and believes that the Fellowship is a grassroots movement that values all its members; and
- WHEREAS, There are many qualified and competent leaders in this Fellowship, and our Fellowship would benefit by ensuring that our Executive Presbytery is periodically refreshed by the inclusion of new leaders; and

WHEREAS, The institution of term limits is a reasonable and tested method to ensure that a group has the best opportunity to select new leadership; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, page 100, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph b. Nonresident Executive Presbytery terms of office to read as follows:

**b. Nonresident Executive Presbytery terms of office.**  
Nonresident executive presbyters shall be eligible to serve two terms or a maximum of eight years.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraph b be relettered as c.

The chairman returned the discussion to the main motion to adopt Resolution 1 as amended. The vote was taken to adopt Resolution 1 as amended. Having noted that the motion to adopt Resolution 1 as amended received more than the two-thirds vote required for a constitutional amendment, the chairman declared the motion was carried. The adopted Resolution 1 as amended follows:

WHEREAS, Our Fellowship provides a deep and strong leadership pool; and

WHEREAS, That leadership provides a helpful and strategic variety of gifts of the Spirit; and

WHEREAS, New gifts, new perspectives, and “fresh eyes” are often helpful in decision making; and

WHEREAS, In recent years members of the Executive Presbytery have been elected to four-year terms rather than two; and

WHEREAS, Such a term provides less opportunity for leadership change; and

WHEREAS, Three, four-year terms (twelve years) provides sufficient time for a nonresident executive presbyter to make a significant contribution to the advancement of the mission of the Fellowship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a. Composition and terms of office, page 100, which reads:

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

Be amended to read:

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

Each nonresident executive presbyter may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. A nonresident executive presbyter who has completed three consecutive four-year terms, is eligible to be nominated and elected again after having not served for four years. If he or she initially fills an unexpired term, he or she would still be eligible for three, four-year terms.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That the term limits will apply to present and future nonresident executive presbyters.

### **Resolution 3. Black Executive Presbyter**

Duane P. Durst, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 3 and moved its adoption. Resolution 3 as presented follows:

#### **BLACK EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER**

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has for many years been on a journey of racial reconciliation, which has included the adoption of resolutions in previous General Councils recalling that in the Azusa Street Revival,

“leadership and people joined together without regard to ethnicity, providing a divine rebuke against the Jim Crow laws and racial discrimination of this worldly age and throwing a shining light of God in showing the Spirit’s intention for the church where the blood of Christ washes out the color line”; and

WHEREAS, We have recognized our historic failure to keep and treasure the twentieth century Azusa Street Revival, and in 1989 declared our need to confront our sin and need for repentance by adopting Resolution 20, the Sin of Racism, which asked our Black brothers and sisters for forgiveness. And, in 1995, Resolution 25 expressed a resolve to remove “every last vestige of racism from our midst, restoring to the work of the Lord the blessing of an integrated fellowship”; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God continued on that journey by participating in the 1994 “Memphis Miracle,” which brought together a previously racially divided Pentecostal Movement into the new Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA); and by adopting in 1995 Resolution 25, which encouraged the use of Black ministries throughout every aspect of the Assemblies of God, resulting in much greater diversity and inclusion in the Assemblies of God today; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Resolution 22 was adopted to create the Commission on Ethnicity for the following purposes:

1. Providing a forum for listening and understanding the ethnic issues that relate to our Fellowship;
2. Giving direction to formulate, establish, and communicate a vision of the ethnic opportunities for ministry; and
3. Recommending organizational changes that will facilitate effective ministry to ethnic constituents and enhance the participation of these within the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Evidence of the progress has been made by the election in 2007 of the first Black executive director (Assemblies of God U.S. Missions) in our hundred-year history; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the Executive Presbytery referred a Multi-Ethnic Task Force Report to the Commission on Ethnicity with the hope that ethnic diversity would be viewed as one of our highest values within the Assemblies of God; that minority groups would have heightened visibility in national and district offices; that multicultural training

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materials would be developed; and that Assemblies of God colleges would recruit and advocate for minority students; and

WHEREAS, The National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God has a mandate to help the Assemblies of God answer the call to minister to the spiritual, social, and economic struggles of the inner cities of America, and specifically to address the plight of African-Americans, who make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, having grown in the last ten years to 35.4 million and yet suffering the highest levels of poverty, disease, unemployment, and incarceration in our nation; and

WHEREAS, The National Black Fellowship is fulfilling this mandate to reach urban America for Christ by using its gifts to create diversity and foster reconciliation within the Assemblies of God, and to plant and strengthen local churches and ministries in cooperation with district offices; and

WHEREAS, Blacks now make up 300,763 (approximately 10 percent) of adherents in the U.S. Assemblies of God, a percentage that has steadily grown for the past ten years, accounting for 29,303 conversions and 386 of the Assemblies of God churches existing in America today with an average attendance of 175 people (according to Race and Ethnicity of Assemblies of God U.S. Churches, 2013); and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery constitutes the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and is composed of representatives of geographic areas, language groups, and ethnic fellowships; and

WHEREAS, The current executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions is an executive presbyter by virtue of the office he holds and does not officially represent the National Black Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The twenty-two Language/Ethnic Fellowships of the Assemblies of God have liaison relationship to the General Council through the Assemblies of God Commission on Ethnicity and the Office of Ethnic Relations, but are represented collectively by only one ethnic general presbyter elected to serve on the Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The National Black Fellowship, which has been in existence for thirty-five years, was known in its first eighteen years as the Inner City Workers Conference and during that time had a representative on the Executive Presbytery with voice and vote; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery presently includes representation of Hispanic ministers, an ordained minister under 40 years of age, and an ordained female minister; and, our Fellowship's journey of racial reconciliation would be advanced by a decision to have the National Black Fellowship, again, represented in our highest leadership body; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Black Fellowship be represented by one executive presbyter on The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and that this executive presbyter be elected from the Executive Board members of the National Black Fellowship; with the person to be an African-American, ordained minister with the Assemblies of God, who has been actively involved with and in good standing with the National Black Fellowship for at least one year.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a. Composition and terms of office, page 100, which currently reads:

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

Be amended to read:

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 15 14 other persons to bring the number to 21 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.



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And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2) (b) By ethnic fellowship, page 108, which reads:

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Bylaws, Article V, Section 8) shall be represented.

Be amended to read:

(b) *By ethnic fellowship other than the National Black Fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships (other than the National Black Fellowship) duly recognized (Bylaws, Article V, Section 8) shall be represented.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2) Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters, page 108, be amended by the addition of a new subparagraph (c) to read as follows:

(c) National Black Fellowship representation. The nominees shall be the Executive Board of the National Black Fellowship, as put forth by the National Black Fellowship, and shall be African-American. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present subparagraph (c) be relettered subparagraph (d).

(See pages 53 and 72 for additional action taken.)

## **Recess**

The chairman recessed the meeting at 4:40 p.m. to reconvene at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2015.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 5**

An early evening banquet was hosted by Assemblies of God World Missions. The theme was “Reachable.” The banquet held a time of concentrated prayer for the ministries of each of the Assemblies of God World Missions regions and International Ministries. Each regional director and the International Ministries director spoke briefly about the reachable in their areas and of their ongoing ministry to reach lost souls. The banquet included various U.S. pastors praying for each individual region.

The Wednesday evening service of the 56th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. It was a combined youth and adult service with an emphasis on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Worship was led by recording artist Kari Jobe and her band. She also ministered in special song. Bruce S. (Scotty) Gibbons, Jr., Youth Ministries strategic partner, led the congregation in prayer and then introduced a video about Speed the Light. He also interviewed Tim and Denise Miller, parents of 15-year-old Courtney Faith Miller, who talked about their daughter’s love for God and her missionary work that continues even after her death.

Heath Adamson, director of Youth Ministries and senior ministry business director, introduced Claudio Freidzon, international evangelist and pastor of King of Kings church in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who brought the evening message. He challenged the more than 16,000-member crowd to seek and receive the presence of God in their lives and be prepared to change the world. He shared that God placed on his heart to tell the youth that He will use them in their homes to be an instrument of unity and salvation, and a reason for joy to every member of their family. He prophesied this land will be filled with the glory of God as never before because the Church is rising up, the Church is receiving the power of the Holy Spirit as Jesus has prophesied. “This is the generation that needs to know the power of God.” He opened the altars, and they were flooded with a powerful and extended time of seeking God and the Holy Spirit.

## **THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 6**

### **Memorial Breakfast and Service**

The Memorial Breakfast was held at the Orange County Convention Center for family members who have lost loved ones who were credentialed ministers during this past biennium, between the dates of June 1, 2013, and May 31, 2015. General Secretary James T. Bradford opened the service by bringing greetings and offering a prayer. He announced that 891 Assemblies of God ministers are remembered this year. In tribute to the deceased ministers, a memorial scroll video listing each name was shown.

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The Harvesters from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas, ministered in special song.

General Superintendent George O. Wood offered prayer for the families of those who have been called to their eternal reward and introduced Doug Clay, general treasurer, who brought a message from John 15:1–4. Thomas R. Matrone from Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 79.

### **Headwinds and Tailwinds Morning Session**

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the morning session at 8:45 a.m. with song and prayer. He introduced the morning subject of Headwinds and Tailwinds, noting that we have headwinds in our culture such as the recent Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage that illustrate how far away the nation has strayed from the Judeo-Christian values that were once our foundational moral anchor. The shift is significant, but where sin abounds, grace all the more abounds. Tailwinds are the opportunities before the church that move us forward in spiritual growth.

The general superintendent introduced George Paul Wood, director of Ministerial Resourcing and Assemblies of God liaison for the 1st Amendment Partnership, who moderated a panel of two Christian lawyers discussing legal issues pertaining to ministers and churches today. George Paul Wood introduced Richard R. Hammar, legal counsel for the Assemblies of God, and Joshua D. Hawley, associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law and former clerk for Chief Justice John Roberts and a graduate of Yale University, who helped draft the case for Hobby Lobby that went before the Supreme Court. The panel discussed various issues related to religious freedoms and the challenges for ministers and churches. Among other counsel, the panel encouraged Christians to engage in efforts to strengthen state laws that protect religious freedom, citing that churches need additional safeguards beyond the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) legislation.

George O. Wood introduced David and Barbara Green, founders of Hobby Lobby, who were thrust into the national spotlight last year when their family successfully defended the company's decision to refuse offering government-mandated health care that included contraceptives inducing abortion. The general superintendent held a question-and-answer session with David Green recounting the history and beginnings of Hobby Lobby and how Green was raised by parents who were Pentecostal pastors. His five siblings are all involved in ministry, but he chose to serve the Lord in the business world. He shared about the early years in business and about his decision to truly recognize that God owns the business. He gives all the glory to God for their successes. The entire family believes they are caretakers of what belongs to God. He highlighted the Supreme Court case, their charitable work, and their most ambitious family undertaking in which they plan to open the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., in 2017. The 400,000-square-foot

facility is expected to contain more than 45,000 artifacts. David Green offered a closing prayer asking for the Lord's blessings on each family, pastor, and church represented, and praying that God would be with them and anoint them in each and every endeavor within their church.

The general superintendent introduced Christopher J. Railey, senior ministry business director of Leadership and Church Development, who opened the "Tailwinds" segment. He cited impressive statistics connected to new Assemblies of God church plants in the last eight years and explained about the Church Multiplication Network Matching Fund and the opportunities it has opened to win people to Christ. He urged ministers to embrace the Transform America initiative to assist with having a Spirit-empowered healthy church in every community in the country.

Greg Surratt, founding pastor of Seacoast Church, gave an overview of how America became an overwhelmingly Christian nation, and what has led to the decline of the church. He believes the deregulation of the church, separating it from government control, energized churches to evangelize. He stressed the only way out is to plant thousands of new life-giving churches. New churches are made up of one-third to two-thirds unchurched people and they bring in six to eight times more new believers than existing churches. He believes that we have to affirm existing churches but keep church planting in the forefront in order to make a dent in the unchurched population.

Jeffrey S. Leake, pastor of Allison Park Church of the Assemblies of God in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, and Brian M. Bolt, pastor of City Reach Church Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, teamed to present a message on church planting and the synergy of cluster church plantings. God placed in the heart of Jeffrey Leake to plant 100 churches in ten years, and he shared his idea with Brian Bolt who was stunned, but then sold out to the vision. Together, they have discovered the power of collaboration and partnerships with districts and ministries in order to see many new churches launched in the Northeast. Next year they are expecting to plant the one hundredth church—100 churches in five years, half the time that had been planned. Church leaders were urged to join a church planting conversation by texting EVERYCOMMUNITY to 95577. They were also encouraged to pray for the top ten cities needing to establish a church plant.

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison brought an abbreviated message about the Acts 2 Journey and the Church Transformation Initiative. He talked about the need for a spiritual urgency to establish healthy churches in declining and dead churches. He spoke about the Acts 2 model—Connect: love God, love others; Grow: discipleship, engaging people in a systematic study of Scripture; Serve; Go: that's missions, giving and going; and Worship. He closed his session by receiving an offering for Transform America, an initiative to plant healthy churches in the ten largest cities in America that do not have an Assemblies of God church.

The Headwinds/Tailwinds session concluded with an emotional message from Assemblies of God evangelist Dave Roever. He brought greetings and introduced some Purple Heart recipients who assisted him. His message urged ministers and leaders

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not to take for granted the freedoms or the sacrifices required in order to have those freedoms. He warned that suffering for the cause of Christ will come to America, and he stated that he desires to have our Pentecostal experience back, where we are not ashamed of who we are. He led in special prayer for our country and reflected on the costly price that God paid when He gave His Son on the cross of Calvary.

The session concluded at 12 noon, and the general superintendent closed with prayer. He encouraged everyone to return at 2:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 6**

**Business Session**

The general superintendent convened the afternoon business session at 2:30 p.m. and called the meeting to order. A. Elizabeth Grant, executive presbyter for the additional representation ordained female minister, opened the session with prayer.

**Roster Report**

Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2015:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,072	
Licensed	484	
Delegates	241	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	288	
Voting Constituency		3,105

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,132	
Auxiliary Staff	115	
Certified	267	
General Attendees	8,901	
Guests	70	
Other	1,074	
Staff	216	
Kids Council	494	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,703	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>18,972</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<b>22,077</b>

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

### **Resolution 3. Black Executive Presbyter (cont.)**

Resolution 3 was presented and moved for adoption on Wednesday, August 5, 2015. The chairman returned the matter to the floor for discussion. A motion was moved and seconded to amend Resolution 3 by offering substitute resolves beginning on page 2, line 15, throughout the remainder of the document. The chairman responded that the amendment would greatly impact the Bylaws, and he wanted to be sure that something will not be eliminated or cause the proposed amendment to be in conflict with the Bylaws. The general secretary reported that the amendment seemed contradictory as it offers two processes of selection for both the General Presbytery and Executive Presbytery, and Resolution 3 pertains specifically to the Executive Presbytery. The chairman determined to rule the motion out of order, due to the nature of the substitute resolution containing language which is not clear and because it is confusing to the body.

A motion was moved and seconded to refer Resolution 3 to a committee appointed by the general superintendent to study and return a recommendation to this General Council in session, if that would be possible. A voice vote was taken and the decision was not clear. A standing vote was taken. The chairman declared the motion was carried. The general superintendent appointed the general secretary to chair a committee and empowered him to select several people to work with him, and if possible, to return a resolution to this General Council. Otherwise the matter will be brought to the September 2015 meeting of the Executive Presbytery to appoint a committee to work on the resolution.

(See page 44 for previous discussion.)

(See page 72 for additional action taken.)

### **Resolution 4. Unscriptural Conduct**

Donald H. Detrick, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 4 and moved its adoption. The chairperson of the Resolutions Committee presented an addendum to Resolution 4, as submitted by the General Presbytery, and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt the following addendum that amends Resolution 4 by replacing the word “conduct” with the word “polity”:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has sponsored a resolution to the General Council to amend the Constitution and Bylaws by striking the word “conduct” from various articles because the word “conduct” is broad and has given cause for lawsuits against the General Council, and noting that striking the word does not affect the General Council’s ability to discipline ministers; and

WHEREAS, It should be noted that these articles describe the General Council’s authority over the local church, they are not related to the General Council’s authority over a credentialed minister; and

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WHEREAS, Districts occasionally invoke this language to revert a church from General Council status to district affiliated status on the basis of their “conduct” (refusal to follow their bylaws, refusal to pay their bills, etc.), and the loss of this basis would incapacitate the districts from intervening in such situations; and

WHEREAS, Replacing the word “conduct” with the word “polity” would satisfy both concerns—limiting liability to the General Council, while still allowing district councils to intervene when the governance of the church has failed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council amend the proposed resolution, “Unscriptural Conduct,” by striking the word “conduct” and replacing it with the word “polity.”

The chairman returned the discussion to the main motion to consider Resolution 4 as amended that strikes the word “conduct” and replaces it with the word “polity.” The vote was taken to adopt Resolution 4 as amended. Having noted that the motion to adopt Resolution 4 as amended received the more than the two-thirds vote required for a constitutional amendment, the chairman declared the motion was carried. The adopted Resolution 4 as amended follows:

WHEREAS, The Constitutional Declaration of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (“General Council”) states that the General Council exists in part to “disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct”; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d, states that a General Council affiliated assembly “shall recognize that a district council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI, Section 4, of the Bylaws.)”; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 4, paragraph a, states that General Council affiliated churches “have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and conduct. (See Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d.)”; and

- WHEREAS, The General Council has been sued several times as a result of the actions of ministers and laypersons in Assemblies of God churches, and in many of these cases the claim is made that the General Council is liable for such actions as a result of its authority to “disapprove” unscriptural conduct; and
- WHEREAS, The word “conduct” in the above-quoted provisions in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws has never been defined; and
- WHEREAS, The authority of the General Council, under the above-quoted provisions, to disapprove unscriptural doctrine is broad enough to encompass conduct; and
- WHEREAS, The authority of the General Council to discipline ministers would not be affected by an elimination of the authority to disapprove unscriptural conduct; and
- WHEREAS, An elimination of the authority of the General Council to approve or disapprove of unscriptural conduct would greatly assist the General Council in defending against personal injury lawsuits; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That references to “conduct” in the above-quoted provisions shall be replaced by the word “polity”; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Constitutional Declaration, WE BELIEVE, paragraph 7, page 93, which currently reads:

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

Be amended to read:



That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural ~~methods, doctrines and polity conduct~~, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1, paragraph d, page 103, which currently reads:

**d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.** A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI, Section 4, of the Bylaws.)

Be amended to read:

**d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity ~~conduct~~.** A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and polity conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI, Section 4, of the Bylaws.)

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council, paragraph a, page 119, which currently reads:

**a. Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining

bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and conduct. (See Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d.)

Be amended to read:

**a. Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and polity ~~conduct~~. (See Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d.)

### **Privileged Motion**

A motion was moved and seconded for the Resolutions Committee to dispense with the reading of each resolution in its entirety and read only the resolved portions. The motion was carried.

### **Resolution 5. Continuing Education**

Carol A. Taylor, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 5 and moved its adoption. A motion was moved and seconded to amend Resolution 5 by striking the words "Newly licensed and ordained" from page 22, lines 5 and 6, so that the sentence beginning on line 6 would read as follows: "Ministers are required to take one Assemblies of God Continuing Education Unit (CEU) biennially."

The chairman placed a hold on the discussion in order to present an order of the day.

(See page 61 for additional action taken.)

### **Order of the Day—Logos Bible Software**

The general superintendent introduced Joel Muddamalle, product manager with Logos Bible Software. He presented a timely Bible study using the Logos Bible Software and offered the product at a reduced rate to everyone attending the General Council. He stated that the product has a lifetime licensing and can be used with any electronic equipment.

## **General Superintendent's Medal of Honor**

The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor was presented by the general superintendent to the following two outstanding laypersons:

### **Jewell Branstetter Woodward**

The general superintendent introduced Jewell Woodward and invited her husband, James, and her family, along with her pastor, Jeffrey T. Peterson, to join her on the platform. The following statement was read by the general superintendent:

In the 100-year+ history of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, only two people hold the distinct record for having worked fulltime for 50 years at the national office—Gwendoline Jones, who received the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor in 1991 and Jewell Branstetter Woodward.

As a teenager in the early 1960s, Jewell's desire and prayer was to someday work at the "big, blue building" on Boonville Avenue.

Upon graduation from Central High School in 1965, Jewell began her first day of employment on June 8 as a teletype perforator in Composing with a weekly salary of \$52.00. Ten months later on April 11, 1966, she transferred to Secretariat which was under the office of the general secretary with a \$2 a week increase in pay. Jewell steadily moved through that office as clerk typist, stenographer clerk, and supervisor. In May 1972, then-General Secretary Bartlett Peterson tapped her to become his personal secretary with a pay increase to \$125.50 a week.

In 1976, when Joseph R. Flower was elected to the office of general secretary and again in 1994 when George O. Wood became general secretary, her expertise in this office was recognized and she was invited to remain as their secretary, later known as executive administrative assistant.

Jewell has assisted onsite for General Councils from Miami, Florida, in 1973, to Portland, Oregon, and many points in between. The memories she has from these Councils would make for a very interesting read!

In 2007, when then-General Secretary George O. Wood was elected general superintendent, she was given the opportunity to either stay with the Office of the General Secretary or move up the hall with the general superintendent—which she chose to do.

Southern Missouri District Superintendent Don Miller writes of Jewell: *It has been my privilege over the years on numerous occasions to interact with Jewell in business with the Office of General Superintendent. I have always found her to be cordial, helpful, and uplifting. It is obvious that she considers her*

*responsibilities much more than a job. It is truly her reasonable service unto the Lord. As well, it is obvious that she highly regards, respects, and honors those whom she serves.*

Along with 40+ hours of work each week at the national office, marriage in 1969 to James Woodward, the births of their three sons, Jeffrey in 1971, Jonathan in 1975, and Joel in 1981, Jewell has been heavily involved in their local church—Central Assembly of God. Pastor Jeffrey T. Peterson says of Jewell: *“Faithful” and “servant” are two of the words that come to mind immediately when describing Jewell. Over the years, her incredible culinary and hostess giftings have been used for the Kingdom, preparing literally hundreds of meals for Girls Ministries Mother/Daughter banquets and Honor Star crownings, Royal Rangers Dads ‘n Lads weekends, and Council of Achievement celebrations, as well as missions events, and coordinating dinners and picnics for their Sunday school class. She also shared her leadership ministry by serving six years on the deacon board at Central Assembly.*

They say if you want something done, ask a busy person; and, that was often the case with Jewell. Her infectious laughter and willing heart and hand to help wherever she could have made an indelible mark on many lives . . . from sewing costumes for children’s programs to making sure a young couple with very limited resources had a beautiful wedding cake for their wedding reception.

For a life of service bringing glory to God and this Fellowship, it gives me great honor to confer upon Jewell Branstetter Woodward the church’s highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor.

Jewell Woodward expressed her thanks to George O. Wood and the Executive Presbytery for selecting her for this great honor. She thanked her husband and family for their love and support, and thanked her pastor, and God, stating it has been an honor to work at the General Council—she is blessed beyond any words can say.

### **Harold Lee**

The general superintendent introduced Harold Lee and invited his wife and daughters, along with his pastor, Nam Soo Kim, to join him on the platform. The following statement was read by the general superintendent:

In 1991, Heather Lee was hired to be the church pianist at Promise Ministries International (PMI), and with her came her husband, Harold, who became a member of the church’s choir—it ended up being a nice package deal.

In 1995, Pastor Marc Choi took Harold out of choir practice and sat him in a room and said, “Harold, you’re going to translate the service today.” The funny thing is, he is still serving in that capacity 20 years later. Simply said, Harold stays true to his title of Ordained Deacon (appointed 2009) or literally in Latin

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“diaconus” or servant, and has served PMI, the local and global community, and truly exemplifies what the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor represents.

In 2001, Harold started work with an independent group called Yekko (shortened in Korean for “Children of Jesus”), a children-based performance, TV, and media group, where he served as the missions/performance director for six years.

In 2004, Harold started Promise Treasures at PMI as a children’s missionary performance praise and worship/hip-hop team. He converted unused open space at the church into a performing arts center. The area is now being utilized by multiple groups within our church and our community outreach programs like Powerhouse—a free Saturday school program for children ages 4 to 14—where teams practice, teach, and are able to perfect their skills.

In March 2005, “His Life—The Musical” was first presented at PMI with Harold cast as Caiaphas. The musical soon became a part of PMI’s mission vehicles for the 4/14 Movement (which is reaching children between the ages of 4 and 14 for Christ) and where Harold is now the principal driver and the director for the musical. He currently oversees the complete production and has been able to bring this spectacle to an estimated 500,000 people globally, including in El Salvador, Colombia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malaysia, South Korea, China, and across the United States, with notable performances at the Apollo Theater in New York and at Chong Yi church in Hangzhou, China.

Senior Pastor of Promise Ministries International and Executive Presbyter Nam Soo Kim states: “Harold Lee and his wife have selflessly dedicated their passion, time, and talent into the ‘His Life’ musical. Not only him, but his entire family have been involved with ‘His Life’ and ‘Promise Treasures’ for a decade. Everywhere ‘His Life’ has been, Harold has gone also as the producer, leading all of the staff and actors and actresses.”

Promise Treasures is very active in the local and global community with countless performances yearly. They have been partnered with the musical “His Life” and travel with them, opening all performances with their dynamic praise and worship. They have independently performed before more than one million people in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Malaysia, Paraguay, South Korea, Switzerland, and Tanzania, as well as across the United States, with notable performances at Disney World, Apollo Theater, Radio City Music Hall, and the New York Mets’ Citi Field.

With his work in the performing arts and media, Harold has been able to touch the lives of countless people globally—and the number continues to grow. He has just returned from taking the musical “His Life” and Promise Treasures to Singapore this summer, and he is continuously working to bring the musical and Promise Treasures to other countries and venues.

Pastor Kim says, “[Harold] has been presented as an ambassador of the Assemblies of God through the world tours of the musical. He has proudly represented the Assemblies of God with the blood of Jesus’ cross to all of the viewers.”

Some of Harold’s other services through the years to the church include:

- Director of Strategic Missions
- Director of Performing Arts
- Director of Technology Infrastructure
- Advisor for Conference and Event Planning
- Advisor for Powerhouse
- Advisor to the Head Pastor
- Advisor to the Head of 4/14 Global Missions
- Cell Group Leader
- Sunday School Teacher
- Spiritual Leader

Harold’s personal life and in his profession on Wall Street also reflect Christ. Working on a trading desk of a major firm, Harold has instituted what he calls “Gospel Fridays.” Christian music is played all day, and because of this, people have openly proclaimed their faith in Christ and have deepened their relationship with Him because of this open proclamation of faith in a secular environment. Harold continuously strives to break the boundaries in boldly proclaiming his faith and in spreading the love of Christ.

For his tireless dedication in bringing glory to God and this Fellowship, it gives me great honor to confer upon Harold Lee the church’s highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor.

Harold Lee expressed his thanks to General Superintendent Wood, to the Executive Presbytery, and to Nam Soo Kim, who has pastored him and given him plenty of things to do and who helps him to love Christ so much. He is grateful to his church for allowing him to do the Lord’s work.

### **Resolution 5. Continuing Education (cont.)**

The chairman returned the matter of Resolution 5 to the floor for discussion. (Earlier in the day, a motion was moved to adopt Resolution 5 and a motion was moved and seconded to amend Resolution 5 by striking the words “Newly licensed and ordained” from page 22, lines 5 and 6, so that the sentence beginning on line 6 will read as follows: “Ministers are required to take one Assemblies of God Continuing Education Unit (CEU) biennially.”

A motion was moved and seconded to call for the question on the amendment. The motion was carried.

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The vote was taken and the motion to amend Resolution 5 by striking the words “Newly licensed and ordained” lost.

A motion was moved and seconded to call for the previous question. The motion was carried.

A voice vote was taken and the decision was not clear. A standing vote was taken, and the chairman declared the motion to adopt Resolution 5 was lost. Resolution 5 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, Continuing competency of professionals is elemental to protecting the public and earning its sacred trust; and

WHEREAS, Continuing education is mandated to renew licensure in many professions, including for those who are chaplains, medical practitioners, financial planners, counselors, interpreters, and educators; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of appropriate standards for and delivery of continuing ministerial education is essential for completing the mission of the Assemblies of God to reach the world, especially with regard to the continuity of care related to our core values of reaching the lost, worshipping God, discipling believers, and demonstrating compassion to the world; and

WHEREAS, Continuing education could allow us to be nimble and creative in our approach with the timing of courses; and

WHEREAS, The model of using Continuing Education Units (CEUs) could help us enhance learning outcomes because of its frequency and timing; and

WHEREAS, The current motivational structure provides little rationale for progress and strata between license and ordination for new ministers; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Philosophy of Education, which was adopted by the 1974 General Presbytery in session, underscores that this Assemblies of God education is not only an education in theology, but also includes a provision for an “awareness of the world through a proper emphasis in such areas as the arts, humanities, and sciences, recognizing that such an awareness will equip for Christian witness”; and

WHEREAS, It was demonstrated by the 2005–2006 Assemblies of God Commission, a Task Force on Enhanced Education for Ministry to Study General

Council Schools, that the current credentialing education model unfortunately tends toward a minimalistic design to expedite entrance to ministry; and

- WHEREAS, The proliferation of district events, regional Assemblies of God universities, and Schools of Ministry, already provide sufficient infrastructure in place for the establishment of continuing education; and
- WHEREAS, Our ministers should receive course recognition for those seminars, retreats, and courses that many are already attending; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Assemblies of God establish a CEU (Continuing Education Unit) standard and require all newly credentialed active ministers who are licensed and ordained to successfully complete a CEU biennially (every other year) starting in 2017; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That a CEU be defined as six contact hours (instructional session, study-travel, workshop, or seminar) under qualified supervision of a district representative, a sponsored Assemblies of God institution, or its sponsoring agent; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That one CEU be sponsored by an agent or agency working with the district in which a minister is affiliated, such as a district-endorsed seminar, a course taught by a district leader, a class taught by a regionally accredited school, a School of Ministry course, or otherwise endorsed by the district leadership; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That one CEU be required every other year for licensed and ordained ministers until six years following ordination; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the endorsed courses for credentials (from any Assemblies of God endorsed vocational ministry training institution) has dual credit as both educational requirements for credentials and CEUs counting toward the biennial CEU requirements; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials, paragraph a, page 130, be changed from "Continuing education encouraged" to "Continuing education required"; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials, paragraph a, page 130, which reads:



**Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials**

**a. Continuing education encouraged.** Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.

Be amended to read:

**Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials and Continuing Education**

**a. Continuing education required encouraged.** Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education; Newly licensed and ordained ministers are required to take one Assemblies of God Continuing Education Unit (CEU) biennially. These CEUs may include the dual credit for completed courses toward the ordination credential (from any Assemblies of God or district endorsed educational or vocational ministry training opportunity) plus a minimum of three additional courses following ordination. Three additional Assemblies of God CEUs must be completed in the six years following ordination. These three or more additional courses may include discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, as long as they are endorsed by their district presbytery. A CEU is defined as six total contact hours (instructional session, study-travel, workshop, or seminar). Coursework for credentials from any Assemblies of God endorsed vocational ministry training institution shall also be recognized as a CEU. ~~of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.~~

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That this change be made effective January 1, 2017.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That the instrument of proof of attendance be a question on the credential

renewal forms for only licensed and ordained ministers that asks for the date and instructor of the one course completed.

(See page 57 for previous discussion.)

### **Resolution 6. District Representatives on General Presbytery**

Stephen E. Banning, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 6 and moved its adoption.

(See page 67 for additional action taken.)

### **Point of Order**

A point of order was brought to the attention of the body that the General Council has been operating in violation of the General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, (1) in which ministerial applicants are required to pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery before ministerial credentials can be granted. The concern was expressed that this requirement is not being applied to all applicants. It was requested that the General Council cease this practice and place any new credential applicants on hold, who would fall into this consideration, and if there are any other credential practices in violation of the Bylaws that they be stopped until the subject can be properly addressed.

The chairman declared the matter not to be an emergency as no emergency resolution was offered and it would be impractical and impossible to bring the matter to this General Council without extended explanation; however, he indicated the matter will be taken under consideration by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

### **Recess**

The chairman stated that Resolution 6 that is on the floor will be considered tomorrow. He also encouraged the voting delegates to attend all of the business sessions tomorrow, as this is a deliberative body, and the decisions are binding on the entire Fellowship.

The meeting was recessed at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, August 7, 2015.

## **THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 6**

The Thursday evening service of the 56th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. General Superintendent George O. Wood welcomed everyone, and the Influence Worship Band led the congregation in praise and worship. Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, offered prayer.

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A video was shown highlighting the ministry of Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus and New Life Covenant Assemblies of God in Chicago, Illinois, followed by an offering that was received for AG Trust. Elmer Cañas, Cornerstone Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and Alexandria De Jesus-Gomez, worship leader at New Life Covenant Assemblies of God, ministered in special song. George O. Wood introduced Rice Brooks who shared information about the *God's Not Dead* movie and initiative for reaching the lost. The Harvesters from Southwestern Assemblies of God University ministered in special song.

General Superintendent George O. Wood introduced Charles E. Blake, Sr., presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ and pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles, California, who brought the evening message. He spoke from Daniel 11:32 about knowing God. The people who know God will be strong and carry out great exploits. He stressed that we must not bow in our integrity or our morality. He closed the service by inviting the downtrodden and weary, those who have grown discouraged and tired, to gather at the altar for prayer. Hundreds streamed forward for prayer. In reference to John 21, he prayed that we in the Assemblies of God would experience a “net-breaking, boat-sinking” blessing.

**FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 7**

**Business Session**

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the Friday morning business session at 8:45 a.m. and read Scripture from the Book of John chapter 7. Larry H. Griswold, executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area, opened the session with prayer.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

**Roster Report**

The chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Roster Committee. Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 7, 2015:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,073
Licensed	484
Delegates	241
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	287
Voting Constituency	3,105

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,135
Auxiliary Staff	115
Certified	267

General Attendees	8,922
Guests	73
Other	1,106
Staff	216
Kids Council	495
Fine Arts/AIM	6,703
Nonvoting Constituency	<u>19,032</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	22,137

The roster report was adopted by common consent.

### **Resolution 6. District Representatives on General Presbytery (cont.)**

Resolution 6 was presented and moved for adoption on Thursday, August 6, 2015. The chairman returned the matter to the floor for discussion. A motion was moved and seconded to amend Resolution 6 by inserting the following sentence on page 23, line 24, before the word "They:" "At least one of these representatives shall be a minister other than those who are district officers." The motion failed. A voice vote was taken on the main motion to adopt Resolution 6, and the decision was not clear. A standing vote was taken, and the chairman declared the motion was carried.

### **Point of Order**

A point of order was brought to the attention of the chairman that there was no previous motion moved to end the debate or to move the previous question; thus, it would seem that the vote was out of order, as there was no opportunity given for debate on the main motion. The chairman accepted the point of order and reopened the debate regarding Resolution 6. Discussion followed.

### **Resolution 6. District Representatives on General Presbytery (cont.)**

A motion was moved and seconded to call for the question to adopt Resolution 6. The motion was carried to call for the question. A voice vote was taken on the main motion to adopt Resolution 6, and the decision was not clear. A standing vote was taken, and the chairman declared the motion was carried. The adopted Resolution 6 follows:

WHEREAS, District representatives serving as general presbyters has proven to be extremely valuable to the growth of our Movement; and

WHEREAS, As the Movement has grown, the type of input needed for future growth has changed; and

WHEREAS, We as a Movement have a growing number of individuals serving their entire ministerial career as associate pastors, parent affiliated church (PAC) pastors, Teen Challenge directors, Chi Alpha directors, etc.; and

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WHEREAS, The input of a variety of leaders is valuable, and having individuals serving in active local ministries is extremely valuable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, subparagraph (1) *District representatives*, page 109, which reads:

(1) *District representatives*. In addition to the superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

Be amended to read:

(1) District representatives. In addition to the superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church or a person involved in other ministry located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

The chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation to the one who brought the point of order for keeping the meeting in proper order.

(See pages 65 and 67 for previous discussion.)

### **Resolution 10. Credentials Validation for AGWM Regions**

Michael Nelson, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 10 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session June 10–11, 2014, addressed the issue of a credentials renewal policy for missionaries and/or ministers who are working and residing outside the United States but not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions; and

WHEREAS, Assemblies of God World Missions regional leadership has been called upon to validate the ministry of non-Assemblies of God World Missions credentialed missionaries and/or ministers working and residing overseas; and

WHEREAS, This validation inquiry from the Office of the General Secretary has been a matter of tradition and process but not a provision of the General Council Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The process of validating the renewal of credentials for non-Assemblies of God World Missions credentialed missionaries and/or ministers working and residing overseas needs to be clarified and enhanced across the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, This clarification will benefit district leadership, credentialed ministers, and Assemblies of God World Missions personnel around the globe; and

WHEREAS, This clarification will better facilitate and accelerate the credential renewal for non-Assemblies of God World Missions credentialed missionaries and/or ministers working and residing overseas; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8. Ministerial Relations, page 127, be amended by the addition of the following new paragraph letter **d. Assemblies of God World Missions regional credentials validation**:

**d. Assemblies of God World Missions regional credentials validation.** Credentialed ministers working and residing outside the United States, not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions, are required to communicate their residency and ministry status to the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for the purpose of credentials renewal. Their credentialing district shall also instruct said minister to do so as a prerequisite to credentials renewal. If credentialed ministers who are working and residing outside the United States fail to contact the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director prior to credentials renewal, and are unknown to Assemblies of God World Missions leadership, their credential will not be renewed.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIII. Assemblies of God World Missions, page 146, be amended by the addition of the following new Section 7. Credentialed Ministers Working and Residing outside the United States:

**Section 7. Credentialed Ministers Working and Residing outside the United States**

Credentialed ministers working and residing outside the United States, not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions, are required to communicate their residency and ministry status to the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for the purpose of credentials renewal. Their credentialing district shall also instruct said minister to do so as a prerequisite to credentials renewal. If credentialed ministers who are working and residing outside the United States fail to contact the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director prior to credentials renewal, and are unknown to Assemblies of God World Missions leadership, their credential will not be renewed.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present sections 7 and 8 be renumbered 8 and 9.

**Privileged Motion**

A motion was moved to consider the resolution Promotion of Sexual Practices Condemned by Scripture that was deemed inappropriate and rejected by the Resolutions Committee, to be added to the agenda. The chairman responded that it would be appropriate for that motion to be moved at the conclusion of new business, however, there is still ongoing business to be considered with the pending Black Fellowship resolution.

The chairman explained the procedure that will be used in regard to resolutions that are rejected by the Resolutions Committee. The Bylaws specifically indicate that a rejected resolution is rejected because it is deemed inappropriate. When a rejected resolution is presented to this body, the action of the body is to ascertain whether or not it wants to consider the resolution as appropriate. The parliamentarians have indicated that a two-thirds vote is required to adopt a resolution that has not been notified to the body prior to the meeting; thus, a two-thirds vote will be needed to determine its appropriateness. The chairman explained that there were two rejected resolutions, and he has informed the authors that they have the right to bring their concern to this body and ask that their resolutions be considered. This will need to happen at the conclusion of new business.

**Recess**

The chairman recessed the meeting at 9:15 a.m. for the morning worship service and encouraged everyone to return at 2:30 p.m. for the afternoon business session.

**Morning Worship Service**

The general superintendent convened the morning worship service at 9:20 a.m.

and introduced The Honorable John D. Ashcroft, former United States attorney general, who led in prayer and “A Congregational Service of Scripture and Songs,” reflecting on Isaiah 9:6. Joy Wootton, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano for the congregational singing that was interspersed with his message and Scripture memorization. Each song was chosen to reflect the truths represented in this Scripture. The service concluded with him leading in the song, “He’s Coming Soon.”

The general superintendent introduced Jack Hayford, author, composer, former president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, and founding pastor of the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, as well as The King’s University in Southlake, Texas. Jack Hayford presented a Messianic Jewish translation of the Bible to George O. Wood. It is designed to help non-Messianic Jews to look at the Bible and recognize what a Jewish book it is.

Jack Hayford spoke of his fond memories of the Assemblies of God and the leaders through the years. He brought a message from Matthew 28:16 and various chapters in the Book of John. He gave warning that American Christians shouldn’t expect to escape coming persecution in an increasingly wicked world. He focused on the Great Commission and how Jesus foretold of the impartation of the Holy Spirit to prepare His followers for coming troubles. He exhorted pastors that a passion for the Holy Spirit is more than holding a doctrine but discipling people into a life in the Spirit. This needs to be taught regularly, including Sunday mornings. He also said that we should not be critical of younger leaders who do not know how to do this but mentor them instead. He closed his message with prayer.

The general superintendent called everyone to join in a time of praying in the Spirit and closed with the singing of worship songs. The general superintendent expressed his thanks and appreciation to Jack Hayford. The morning session concluded at 11:42 a.m.

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 7**

### **Business Session**

The chairman convened the afternoon business session at 2:30 p.m. and called the meeting to order. Dan C. Betzer, executive presbyter for the Southeast Area, opened the session with prayer.

### **Introduction of Nonresident Executive Presbyters**

The chairman introduced the following newly elected, reelected, and outgoing nonresident executive presbyters and gave opportunity for each one to address the body:

Dan C. Betzer, (reelected) Southeast Area  
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus, (newly elected)  
Language Area—East Spanish  
Duane P. Durst, (newly elected) Northeast Area



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Saturnino Gonzalez, Language Area—East Spanish (outgoing)  
A. Elizabeth Grant, (reelected) Additional Representative—  
    Ordained female minister  
Larry H. Griswold, (reelected) Great Lakes Area  
Nam Soo Kim, (reelected) Language Area—Other  
Rodney K. Loy, (reelected) Gulf Area  
H. Robert Rhoden, Northeast Area (outgoing)

### **Expression of Appreciation**

The chairman expressed thanks to the following committees—Parliamentary Committee: Richard R. Hammar, chairperson; Charles F. Hefton, Jay A. Herndon; Resolutions Committee: Donald H. Detrick, chairperson; Stephen E. Banning, Silvia E. Carrizo, Stefanie C. Chappell, Duane P. Durst, Michael Nelson, Carol A. Taylor; Roster Committee: Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson; Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson; Mark Christianson, liaison; and Tellers Committee: Micheal E. Dickenson, chairperson; Malcolm P. Burleigh, liaison; Emilio De La Cruz, Maria C. Garcia, Stanley E. Holder, Mark E. Jakelsky, Monty R. Sears, David Vistine. He thanked the platform staff, Shelly Mackey, Esther Wood, and Jewell Woodward, and all of the General Council staff who have served in various capacities during this General Council.

### **Resolution 3. Black Executive Presbyter (cont.) (African-American Executive Presbyter)**

General Secretary James T. Bradford explained that a working committee made up of the following individuals met together overnight, incorporating the proposed resolution to amend Resolution 3 into a new resolution 3, which serves as the committee's response to Resolution 3: James T. Bradford, chairperson; Christopher N. Beard, Doug Clay, Diane K. De La Santos, Donald H. Detrick, Darrell J. Geddes, Walter F. Harvey, L. Alton Garrison, Michael Nelson, Glenn S. Reynolds, Jr., and Darnell Williams, Sr.

The general secretary introduced Michael Nelson, president of the National Black Fellowship and author of Resolution 3, and Glenn S. Reynolds, Jr., pastor of Bethel Church in Hampton, Virginia, who presented the amendment to Resolution 3 during the business session on Thursday, August 6. The two men presented the committee's response, a new Resolution 3. African-American Executive Presbyter, responsively reading the resolution together and moved its adoption.

A motion was made to amend the resolution on page 2, line 18, by striking the word "representation" and inserting the word "perspectives." The chairman, after conferring with the Parliamentary Committee, ruled the amendment is not acceptable, as the change would need to be made consistently throughout the Bylaws, which is not the subject of this particular resolution, and because the word "perspectives" is substantially different than the word "representation."

Seeing that several have spoken in favor of the resolution and no one is at a microphone to speak against the resolution, the chairman called for the question. The

motion was carried unanimously. The body responded with a lengthy applause and standing ovation. The adopted Resolution 3. African-American Executive Presbyter follows:

### **African-American Executive Presbyter**

- WHEREAS, African-Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population (35.4 million) of which over 300,000 Blacks (approximately 10 percent) are members or adherents of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Representation of that growing constituency is desirable on the Executive Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The broadest possible number of candidates for those offices and the broadest participation in voting for those officers is also desirable in order to effectively represent such a large and diverse constituency; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council already provides a working mechanism for representation of an ordained female minister and a minister under 40 years of age; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a. Composition and terms of office, page 100, which currently reads:

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

Be amended to read:

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S.

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Missions, together with 15 ~~44~~ other persons to bring the number to 21 ~~20~~. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2) (c) *Additional representation*, page 108, which reads:

(c) *Additional representation.* The nomination process for two additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate two individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one ordained female minister (no age requirement). From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election and four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

Be amended to read:

(c) *Additional representation.* The nomination process for three ~~two~~ additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate three ~~two~~ individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election, ~~and~~ one ordained female minister (no age requirement), ~~and one~~ ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). The members of the Executive Board of the National Black Fellowship shall also be considered nominees for the African-American ordained minister. From the nominees, the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election, ~~and~~ four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), ~~and~~ four names of ordained African-American ministers (no age

requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

(See pages 44 and 53 for previous discussion.)

### **Denied Resolutions by Resolutions Committee**

The chairman explained the process of the Resolutions Committee and how that resolutions are considered for presentation. The Resolutions Committee deemed two resolutions inappropriate. It is the determination of this body to decide if a resolution is appropriate based upon a summary of the resolution to be provided. The Resolutions Committee will then explain why the resolution was denied. The body will need to receive at least a two-thirds “yes” vote to consider a resolution. If the resolution is determined to be considered, it will then need at least a two-thirds vote for it to be carried.

### **Promotion of Sexual Practices Condemned by Scriptures Resolution— Deemed to Be Inappropriate by the Resolutions Committee**

An author of the resolution Promotion of Sexual Practices Condemned by Scriptures gave a summary of the resolution and moved that the resolution be deemed appropriate by this body. The motion was seconded. The chairman of the Resolutions Committee responded by explaining the reason for the rejection of the resolution by reading the letter from the Resolutions Committee that was sent to the authors of said resolution. The chairman explained that the motion is nondebateable and called for the vote. The motion lost.

The general superintendent took the opportunity to let the body know that the Assemblies of God definition is very clear. If there have been incidents where someone is involved in LGBT promotion, we have disciplined ministers and churches in that situation. He wants the body to know clearly that the Assemblies of God, with his leadership, the Executive Leadership Team, the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, and throughout our districts have a very clear position. We do not permit same-sex relationships. We have a position paper on the biblical position of marriage, and if ministers take a public platform for the LGBT community, we will act accordingly, according to the Bylaws discipline section. There is no equivocation on the part of the General Council. The body responded with applause.

### **Ratification of Position Papers— Deemed to Be Inappropriate by the Resolutions Committee**

An author of the resolution Ratification of Position Papers gave a summary of the resolution and moved that the resolution be deemed appropriate by this body. The motion was seconded. The chairman of the Resolutions Committee responded by explaining the reason for the rejection of the resolution by reading the letter from the Resolutions Committee that was sent to the authors of said resolution. The chairman explained that the motion is nondebateable and called for the vote. The motion lost.

The general superintendent expressed his thanks to the body for its kindness in moving through such serious issues and for showing respect, consideration, and kindness toward every viewpoint. The Assemblies of God embraces a wide variety of people, with a wide variety of perspectives on matters, and we always want to treat one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

### **Expression of Appreciation to the General Superintendent**

A delegate requested that this body express appreciation to the general superintendent for the actions he has personally taken and the leadership he has spearheaded in reconciliation. There has been a demonstration over these days of business that always presents a desire of this body to be reconciled and have the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. He asked this body to thank George O. Wood for his leadership in these areas. The body responded with rousing applause and a standing ovation.

### **Question of Privilege**

A delegate expressed concern for the decorum used during the business sessions and requested that, in the future, the General Council work hard to realign future agendas with things that need dialogue first, followed by elections, and then reports, so that matters are not interrupted when being considered. The chairman responded that he understands the delegate's concern; however, the agenda is controlled by the General Council Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Resolution 14. Courtesy Resolution**

Donald H. Detrick, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 14 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 14 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The 56th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the city of Orlando, Florida, and our host districts, the Peninsular Florida District Council, the West Florida District Council, the Brazilian District Council, and the Florida Multicultural District Council; and
- WHEREAS, A wide host of persons, countless agencies, and firms have committed much in order to provide effective service to the members, delegates, and guests of this 56th General Council; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to: The State of Florida Governor Rick Scott; Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs; City of Orlando Mayor John Hugh "Buddy" Dyer; the Orange County Convention Center, Visit Orlando (the Convention and Visitors Bureau); and the many hotel and restaurant personnel, for their accommodation and hospitality; and, be it further

- RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the gifted and visionary leadership He has raised up among us in the persons of our general superintendent, George O. Wood, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Executive Presbytery; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship determine that the ever-present call and challenge to expand God’s kingdom at home and abroad by every means possible, be affirmed and sustained by our ongoing commitment to fulfill the assignments that our Lord Jesus, the Head of this Church, has given us; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, On this historic occasion of our 56th General Council of the Assemblies of God that we rededicate ourselves to the greatest evangelism the world has ever known, as we continue to abide in the Spirit as one, carry the fragrance of God, and Soar beyond Hope’s end.

### **Spiritual Life Committee Report—Departmental/Divisional Reports**

The general superintendent referenced that the General Council Bylaws provide for departmental/divisional reports and a Spiritual Life report. He explained that over the years it has been discovered that rather than have a printed, lengthy document that our reports would best be done by having the delegates go through the Exhibit Hall and talk with departmental leaders. In addition, the Spiritual Life Committee report is included within the general superintendent’s message on Tuesday night. Thus, it is noted that the fulfilling of these reports is completed by these means.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was moved and seconded to adjourn the business meeting of the 56th General Council at 3:40 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2015. The chairman indicated that all services are posted online for availability. The general superintendent offered a closing prayer and concluded with the singing of the Doxology.

### **Roster Report**

The Roster Committee provided the following final Roster Report as of Friday afternoon, August 7, 2015, at 2:08 p.m.:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,074
Licensed	484
Delegates	241
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	287
Voting Constituency	3,106

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**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,135
Auxiliary Staff	115
Certified	267
General Attendees	8,928
Guests	73
Other	1,149
Staff	216
Kids Council	495
Fine Arts/AIM	6,703
Nonvoting Constituency	<u>19,081</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>	<b>22,187</b>

**FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 7**

The Fine Arts Festival Celebration Service of the 56th General Council began Friday at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. An evening of excellence concluded the 2015 General Council as National Fine Arts Festival award winners performed their talents in powerful worship and praise to God.

General Superintendent George O. Wood greeted the audience and told them he is praying that this year in their schools it will be an impactful year for Jesus Christ. He encouraged the students to share their witness and literally lead hundreds of thousands of their peers to the Lord. Heath Adamson, director of Youth Ministries and senior ministry business director, also welcomed the crowd of over 15,000 youth and adults.

General Council executives and directors paired together to present the Awards of Merit—the highest honor awarded—to groups and individuals in both the youth and Kappa Tau (college) categories. Honorable Mention awards were presented to the top person or group in exhibition (first-year) categories. The excitement of the service paused and took a serious turn following Alexis Gauthier’s Short Sermon Award of Merit presentation. Following her sermon, which included her father’s battle with cancer who she had learned had been given a week to live, Youth Ministries Senior Director Heath Adamson led in prayer for Alexis, healing for her father, and for the youth—that no matter what, they would remain faithful to God.

Bruce S. (Scotty) Gibbons, Jr., Youth Ministries strategist, gave a message to the youth to deploy globally and offered a closing prayer.

James T. Bradford  
General Secretary

## IN MEMORIAM

The following list of deceased ministers includes the names of all who have been reported to the general secretary's office from June 1, 2013, to May 31, 2015, and were included in the Memorial Scroll:

Acquah, Chris, Aurora, CO  
 Adkins, Eldeth I., Columbia Heights, MN  
 Adkison, Leonard W., Munford, TN  
 Agee, Keith E., Cheboygan, MI  
 Ahrendt, Carrie C., Seabeck, WA  
 Ahrens, Elinore M., Port Barrington, IL  
 Alaniz, Encarnacion, Sr., Clovis, CA  
 Albritton, Billy G., No. Richland Hills, TX  
 Alexander, Frank M., Russell, KS  
 Alexis, Daniel B., Haynesville, LA  
 Alfaro, Fidel, Las Cruces, NM  
 Allen, A. W., Brundidge, AL  
 Allen, Clara S., Brundidge, AL  
 Allen, Gene O., Keller, TX  
 Allen, Perry F., Livingston, TN  
 Allen, Troy D., Scottsbluff, NE  
 Allison, Stella G., Baytown, TX  
 Alloway, Dusty J., Butler, IN  
 Altman, Gardner H., Chesapeake, VA  
 Anderson, Anthony W., Siloam Springs, AR  
 Anderson, Donald J., Galena, KS  
 Anderson, Judith M., Montgomery, IL  
 Anderson, Lois H., Leesburg, FL  
 Anderson, Lowell L., Delta, CO  
 Anderson, Paul I., Murfreesboro, TN  
 Anderson, Richard L., Santa Rosa, CA  
 Antin, Edwin W., Niagara Falls, NY  
 Apele, Okusitino F., Hayward, CA  
 Apple, Jennings R., Russellville, AR  
 Argoe, Paul D., Gate City, VA  
 Argue, Bonnie D., Santa Rosa, CA  
 Arias, Stanley L., Vernal, UT  
 Armenta, Jonathan, Grapevine, TX  
 Armstrong, James R., Bakersfield, CA  
 Arrington, Mary Lou, Evans, GA  
 Asbury, Doris H., Gloucester, VA  
 Ash, Dean H., Lakeland, FL  
 Atrushkevich, Siarhei, Philadelphia, PA  
 Badger, Gerald D., Upland, IN  
 Baez, Juan A., El Paso, TX  
 Baggett, Paul A., Goodlettsville, TN  
 Bailey, Harold D., Plain Dealing, LA  
 Baity, Lawrence T., Flint, MI  
 Baker, Wilmer G., Chandler, OK  
 Ballew, Noble L., Florence, OR  
 Ballweber, James J., Springfield, MO  
 Bandy, Barney E., Berwind, WV  
 Barco, James F., Coatesville, PA  
 Barfield, Mildred M., Sneads, FL  
 Barlow, Coleman F., Muncie, IN  
 Barnett, C. Lawrence, Fort Worth, TX  
 Barton, Oscar D., Bonne Terre, MO  
 Baser, Gerald L., Grove, OK  
 Bates, O. Clinton, Houston, TX  
 Batse, Donald E., Eureka Springs, AR  
 Bazan, Nestor S., Allen, TX  
 Beard, William R., Johnstown, CO  
 Beatty, Richard R., Kittanning, PA  
 Beaver, Mamie E., Shelby, NC  
 Beckett, Milton, Kansas City, MO  
 Beeson, Lynn W., Chelsea, OK  
 Beiler, Samuel D., Jr., Jacksonville, FL  
 Bell, Bette D., Bangor, MI  
 Bell, Paul T., Jr., Riverside, CA  
 Benavides, Ruth E., Union City, CA  
 Bender, Edward A., Inverness, FL  
 Bennett, Roy G., Calvert City, KY  
 Berg, Oca D., Russellville, AR  
 Berg, W. A., Russellville, AR  
 Bergler, Charles W., Springfield, MO  
 Berkhiser, Frances, Brentwood, TN  
 Bermudez, Matias, Somerton, AZ  
 Berry, Beatrice C., Lewiston, CA  
 Beteta, Simon B., Savannah, TX  
 Biddle, David D., Emmetsburg, IA  
 Biddle, John J., Mount Ayr, IA



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Biffert, Nancy K., Waupaca, WI  
Bishop, Richard W., Springfield, MO  
Blackburn, John W., De Kalb, TX  
Blair, Franklin D., Oklahoma City, OK  
Blandon, Cesar A., Largo, FL  
Blankenship, Donald E., Daniels, WV  
Blansit, W. Wilbur, Oak Grove, MO  
Bolt, Richard R., Haughton, LA  
Book, Dorothy J., West Linn, OR  
Booth, Walter R., Cainsville, MO  
Bordigon, John O., Emmaus, PA  
Botello, John R., Albuquerque, NM  
Bough, Cletus D., Lyons, IN  
Bowman, Ernest M., Dillon, SC  
Boyce, Paul E., Sweetwater, TN  
Boyd, Bonnie J., Chetopa, KS  
Boyd, David H., Lakeland, FL  
Bradley, Joe A., Westlake, TX  
Bradley, Marty J., Glendale, AZ  
Brannon, Sylvester, Beebe, AR  
Bresson, H. Elsie, Springfield, MO  
Bresson, Verle M., Springfield, MO  
Briner, Nancy E., Cumberland, MD  
Broadwater, Terry B., Parker, CO  
Brooks, John A., Robertsdale, AL  
Brooks, Kenneth A., Sr., Gonzales, TX  
Brostowski, Gayle A., Taylor, PA  
Brostowski, Joseph D., Lakeland, FL  
Brown, Archie E., Clinton, IN  
Brown, Clyde G., Waxahachie, TX  
Brown, Eddie F., Rockport, TX  
Brown, Estelle, Burbank, IL  
Brown, George H., Jr., Hudsonville, MI  
Brown, Janet M., Doty, WA  
Brown, Kenneth L., Saint Louis, MO  
Brown, Louis D., Jr., Eakly, OK  
Brown, Roberta J., Central City, PA  
Brown, William E., Interlachen, FL  
Brummett, Hershel A., Tulsa, OK  
Bryan, Billy R., Sr., Opelika, AL  
Bryant, Cheryl D., Plainfield, NJ  
Bryant, John R., Jr., Waupaca, WI  
Bucher, Delbert R., Springfield, MO  
Bueno, Sostenes M., San Antonio, TX  
Burnett, John W., Tumwater, WA  
Burnside, Newton J., Jr., Copper Hill, VA  
Burroughs, C. Wesley, Fresno, CA  
Burroughs, Virginia M., Dumfries, VA  
Busby, Norman T., Moss Point, MS  
Bush, David B., Waxahachie, TX  
Butler, Ima G., Wichita, KS  
Buttram, Dorman N., Murrieta, CA  
Caballero, Luis L., Rosenberg, TX  
Calderon, Sofia R., Bayamon, PR  
Calentine, Paul L., Astoria, OR  
Call, James A., Fort Collins, CO  
Campbell, Norman C., Laguna Hills, CA  
Canales, Angelo, Canovanas, PR  
Carey, Clinton M., Grapevine, AR  
Carlile, J. W., Fort Worth, TX  
Carmichael, Jesse R., Harpersville, AL  
Carpenter, Robert, Sr., Mason, MI  
Carrion, Adolfo, Suffern, NY  
Carroll, Robert R., Eastpoint, FL  
Carter, Marty M., Ypsilanti, MI  
Caruso, Phillip A., Ogdensburg, NY  
Casoria, John, Buford, GA  
Ceravolo, Concetta, Whiting, NJ  
Cerutti, Hugh E., Farmington, MO  
Chapman, Clara R., Sacramento, CA  
Chase, Jack, Corvallis, OR  
Chavez, Alfonso A., Miami, FL  
Childress, Clifford, Kane, PA  
Chisum, Cecil C., Alexandria, LA  
Christian, Nolan E., Broken Arrow, OK  
Chrystal, Elmer L., Jr., Forest Hill, MD  
Clark, Charles E., Kiln, MS  
Clark, Jeanne B., Lake Wales, FL  
Clark, Max S., Kings Mountain, NC  
Clements, Lloyd A., Bixby, OK  
Cline, Carroll F., Ashland, OR  
Coetzee, Victor, Martinsburg, WV  
Coker, Joe B., Wichita Falls, TX  
Cole, Frank E., Camas, WA  
Coleman, Bill J., Roland, OK  
Coleman, James F., Moss Point, MS

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Collazo, Cruz, Orlando, FL  
 Collins, Carl E., Peoria, AZ  
 Collins, Prentis H., Porter, TX  
 Collins, Thomas R., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Collins, Verble, Waxahachie, TX  
 Collver, H. Ray, Hartford, WI  
 Colston, George G., Yorktown, VA  
 Cople, Joyce, Springfield, MO  
 Cordova, Carlos C., Salinas, CA  
 Cortese, Joseph, Mount Vernon, NY  
 Corvene, Mary R., Cape Coral, FL  
 Cotton, Catherine O., Costa Mesa, CA  
 Covlasky, John T., Wasilla, AK  
 Cox, Lindell E., Osceola, AR  
 Coyle, Felix O., Sharps Chapel, TN  
 Crabtree, Agnes D., Dexter, MO  
 Crabtree, David C., Boca Raton, FL  
 Craighead, William R., Loveland, CO  
 Crouse, Jerry R., Dyer, TN  
 Crouse, Ray S., Omaha, NE  
 Crowe, Leslie E., Hartford, AR  
 Cruz, Elias D., Houston, TX  
 Cude, Paul J., Salem, OR  
 Culpepper, Alta M., Mount Vernon, IL  
 Cummings, Van D., Auburn, CA  
 Cuneio, Jerry L., Vulcan, MO  
 Cunningham, S. Dwight, Jonesboro, AR  
 Custodio, Juan D., Rochester, NY  
 Daniels, Carroll L., Colerain, NC  
 Davila, Felipe C., Jr., New Iberia, LA  
 Davis, Gerald E., Sr., Iowa, LA  
 Dean, Doris E., Chipley, FL  
 Dearborn, Wilma L., Lakeland, FL  
 Decocq, Leona W., Tulsa, OK  
 Denham, Russel C., Royal Palm Beach, FL  
 Denney, Leroy J., Springfield, MO  
 Dennie, Paul D., Colleyville, TX  
 Dennis, Pearolee L., El Dorado, AR  
 Dennison, Jack E., Victorville, CA  
 Denton, Edith, Humble, TX  
 Denton, Roy O., Sr., Windsor, NC  
 Devore, Roe, Lyons, IN  
 Dewitt, Ronald B., Baton Rouge, LA  
 Dial, Jack G., Pawleys Island, SC  
 Diaz, Mary, Orlando, FL  
 Dietz, Thomas L., Katy, TX  
 Digirolamo, Anton, Cordova, TN  
 Dishman, James D., Covington, GA  
 Dobbins, Richard D., Naples, FL  
 Dorothy, Jeffrey A., Sherwood, OR  
 Dorris, C. Earl, Phoenix, AZ  
 Dorsey, Buford T., Claremore, OK  
 Dorsey, Dorothy L., Claremore, OK  
 Dotson, Ray A., Freedom, CA  
 Douglas, Evelyn J., Zephyrhills, FL  
 Douthitt, John, Jr., Duncan, OK  
 Downs, James E., West Monroe, LA  
 Driggers, Raymond R., Ashford, AL  
 Dugger, Willard J., Kingwood, TX  
 Duncan, Harley W., Fort Smith, AR  
 Durham, Anita K., Jasper, TX  
 Duron, Rodney, Shreveport, LA  
 Dusing, Michael L., Lakeland, FL  
 Dyal, Arthur R., Folkston, GA  
 Earle, Suzanne F., Limington, ME  
 Earls, David D., Arnold, MO  
 Earnest, Tullie C., Donalsonville, GA  
 Eason, Lola I., Seagraves, TX  
 Eaves, J. W., Navasota, TX  
 Eaves, Lynda J., Hoxie, AR  
 Ebsen, Jerry D., Mabelvale, AR  
 Eddings, Terry R., Harrison, AR  
 Edwards, Alma O., Bristol, FL  
 Edwards, George F., II, Haysville, KS  
 Edwards, Maxine L., Midland, NC  
 Edwards, Tim, Florence, SC  
 Elder, Keith M., Billings, MT  
 Ellis, J. B., Sr., Oxford, NC  
 Ellison, John B., Orlando, FL  
 Emerson, Richard D., Pueblo, CO  
 Emert, William A., Lockhart, TX  
 Erdmann, James E., Ozark, MO  
 Estrada, Manuel H., Hanford, CA  
 Eubank, James M., Lawton, OK  
 Evans, E. Ray, Livingston, TX  
 Evans, Paul E., Seymour, TX

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Eylander, John W., Marysville, WA  
Eytzen, Andrew A., Adams, WI  
Faggart, Jonathan E., Sherman, TX  
Farnsworth, Philip W., Jackson, MI  
Farris, Oddis W., Talihina, OK  
Fennell, Merle R., Jacksonville, FL  
Ferris, Aaron A., Terrell, TX  
Fidler, Robert W., Bangor, ME  
Figueroa, Ramon, Coconut Creek, FL  
Figueroa, Santos, Holland, MI  
Findley, Richard L., Drummonds, TN  
Finley, Ruth W., Lonoke, AR  
Flokstra, John H., Ocala, FL  
Fonseca, Epifanio, Bayamon, PR  
Foster, Larry E., Sheridan, WY  
Fowler, James D., Atoka, TN  
Fowler, Robert J., Rogue River, OR  
Fox, Howard L., Seal Beach, CA  
Frank, Andrew J., Jr., Tulsa, OK  
Franks, Bethal J., Mansfield, TX  
Franks, Raymond L., Jr., Albuquerque, NM  
Frederick, Wanda L., Tulsa, OK  
Frisby, Mitchell D., Houston, TX  
Fuller, Charles L., Campbell, MO  
Fuller, Charles R., West Valley, NY  
Fuston, Carroll G., Brownwood, TX  
Gabel, Doris J., Phoenix, AZ  
Gaison, Talino K., Mililani, HI  
Gamble, Edward E., Potosi, MO  
Ganey, Raymond, Pensacola, FL  
Gapen, Thornton S., Gold Hill, OR  
Garcia, Rafael, Brooklyn, NY  
Garrett, Greg A., Texas City, TX  
Gautier, Jorge L., Lakeland, FL  
Gemmill, Margaret E., Irvine, CA  
Gibbs, Edith B., Antioch, IL  
Gilbert, Clyde E., Alexandria, LA  
Gillum, Jim D., Wilson, OK  
Giordano, Anthony, Mount Laurel, NJ  
Giunta, Alexander S., Lancaster, PA  
Gleason, Lee R., Clinton, OK  
Glew, Edith O., Lynden, WA  
Godwin, Lester B., Winchester, VA  
Godwin, Lloyd W., Dallas, TX  
Goins, Otto L., Broken Arrow, OK  
Goldizen, Carole S., Medley, WV  
Gonzales, Pablo H., Ontario, CA  
Gonzales, Pedro B., Phoenix, AZ  
Gonzales, Sylvia R., Santa Fe, NM  
Gonzalez, Jose, Chaparral, NM  
Gordon, Jimmy L., Fairview, MO  
Goss, Frank C., Cape Coral, FL  
Gourlas, Irene G., McLeansboro, IL  
Graham, Paul R., Warrenton, MO  
Grams, Charles, Knoxville, TN  
Grams, Evelyn P., Springfield, MO  
Grant, Haskell K., Malvern, AR  
Grapes, Gilbert L., Springfield, MO  
Graves, Howard E., Arroyo Grande, CA  
Green, Dale H., Sr., Mena, AR  
Green, Louis D., Springfield, MO  
Green, Verl M., Largo, FL  
Gregory, Allen R., Rockwall, TX  
Griffith, John A., D'Lo, MS  
Grissom, Albert B., Enterprise, OR  
Griswold, R. Hilton, Springfield, MO  
Guevara, Elizabeth A., San Diego, CA  
Gunn, James D., Ventura, CA  
Guzman, Noemi, Fresno, CA  
Hadden, David W., Murrysville, PA  
Hall, Billy O., Taylorville, IL  
Hall, Delbert R., Phoenix, AZ  
Hall, John G., Newcastlle, OK  
Hallmark, Jerry D., Aberdeen, MS  
Halquist, G. Fredrick, Bloomington, MN  
Hamar, Kenneth U., Klamath Falls, OR  
Hamilton, J. Dean, Winston Salem, NC  
Hamlin, Virginia C., Battle Creek, MI  
Hanford, Mary R., Grandview, WA  
Hansen, Paul A., Kelso, WA  
Hanson, Gilman A., Fontana, CA  
Hardin, Guy H., Clarksville, TX  
Hardin, Thelma, Farwell, MI  
Harrell, W. O., Mineral Wells, TX  
Harris, Dewayne D., Springfield, MO  
Harris, James R., Taylors, SC

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Harris, Myra J., Seminole, OK  
 Harrison, Eula M., Laurel Hill, FL  
 Harstin, Ronnie D., High Shoals, NC  
 Harty, Elizabeth P., Dothan, AL  
 Haserodt, Shirley A., Victoria, TX  
 Hassler, Eugene H., Gulfport, MS  
 Hatley, William O., Tulsa, OK  
 Hatten, Melvin E., Hornbeck, LA  
 Haun, Alvin I., Campbell, CA  
 Haun, Margie M., Campbell, CA  
 Hawtin, Billie, Los Angeles, CA  
 Hay, E. Ruth, Corpus Christi, TX  
 Heady, Dean G., Jr., Farmington, MO  
 Heard, Edith M., Milwaukee, WI  
 Hearne, Robert D., Katy, TX  
 Heath, Larry M., Kannapolis, NC  
 Heddin, Donald D., Amarillo, TX  
 Hemminger, Lee B., Davenport, FL  
 Henderson, Larry E., Rush Springs, OK  
 Hensley, Charles L., Iowa Park, TX  
 Hernandez, Carolina, San Angelo, TX  
 Hernandez, Miguel, Hialeah, FL  
 Herndon, M. Russell, Bethany, OK  
 Herring, James T., Phenix City, AL  
 Heter, John C., Ridgecrest, CA  
 Hetler, James O., Maddock, ND  
 Hicks, Donald C., Princeton, LA  
 Hicks, Robert M., Laurinburg, NC  
 Higgins, Norris C., Sun City, FL  
 Hill, Larry J., Jr., Flemingsburg, KY  
 Hill, Stephen L., Orange Beach, AL  
 Hillestad, V. N., Portage, WI  
 Hilliard, William R., Jersey Shore, PA  
 Hinson, Annie Mae, Graceville, FL  
 Hipwood, Billie J., Turner, MI  
 Hobson, H. Eugene, Atascadero, CA  
 Hodge, Albert J., Graceville, FL  
 Holland, Carl E., Hayes, VA  
 Hollenbaugh, James R., Milton, PA  
 Holley, Cecil D., Universal City, TX  
 Holley, John S., Brantley, AL  
 Hollis, Philip E., Topeka, KS  
 Holloway, Hannah L., Rhome, TX

Hood, James H., Lufkin, TX  
 Hook, Kenneth E., Richmond, MO  
 Hoover, E. Leroy, Lancaster, PA  
 Horton, Morris E., Sr., Calera, AL  
 Horton, Stanley M., Springfield, MO  
 Hosford, Carlin E., Lillian, AL  
 Hosier, Dora Elsie, Ankeny, IA  
 Howell, Sandra K., Kellyville, OK  
 Hubbard, George L., Northfield Falls, VT  
 Huffstetler, Jimmy D., Show Low, AZ  
 Hughes, Richard G., Jacksonville, FL  
 Hull, Dallas H., Medicine Lodge, KS  
 Hurley, Clarence K., Dallas, TX  
 Hurley, Gary D., Mountain Grove, MO  
 Imes, Frances M., Mifflintown, PA  
 Ingle, Robert C., Perryton, TX  
 Iverson, Wesley H., Canton, SD  
 Iwasko, Ronald A., Springfield, MO  
 Jackson, Carlos T., Jr., Bellport, NY  
 Jacob, John W., Mabank, TX  
 James, Ralph W., Milan, TN  
 Jannuzzi, Marlon J., Klamath Falls, OR  
 Jimenez, Adrian, Bronx, NY  
 Jimenez, Luz M., Bronx, NY  
 Jimerson, George F., Gilbertown, AL  
 Johns, James H., Advance, MO  
 Johnson, Etholene B., Henry, VA  
 Johnson, John W., Moss Point, MS  
 Johnson, Paul E., Scarborough, ME  
 Johnson, Richard L., Jr., Ozark, MO  
 Johnson, Walter S., University Place, WA  
 Johnston, Leanon N., Burleson, TX  
 Joiner, Alis A., Cypress, TX  
 Jones, C. Odell, Ozark, MO  
 Jones, Herbert L., Colorado Springs, CO  
 Jones, Howard H., Louisville, KY  
 Jones, Kenneth W., Eastaboga, AL  
 Jones, Mark T., Neosho, MO  
 Jones, Windell G., Wilmington, DE  
 Jordahl, Wayne C., Colorado Springs, CO  
 Joyner, John Paul, Mount Pleasant, TX  
 Juarez, John, Woodburn, OR  
 Kalles, Harlan E., Hilo, HI

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Kaufman, Flossie, Centralia, WA  
Kennedy, Ellsworth E., Tehachapi, CA  
Kerfoot, Frieda I., Maryville, IL  
Kerrick, Bernard W., Kingsport, TN  
Kersh, Allen A., Shady Point, OK  
Ketner, Robert E., Everett, PA  
Kilgore, Andrew, Springdale, AR  
King, Juanita A., Crestview, FL  
Kingsriter, Marian E., Golden Valley, MN  
Kinsey, Joseph M., Oklahoma City, OK  
Kirkpatrick, Madge F., Malvern, AR  
Kirschman, Elmer E., Las Vegas, NV  
Kirschman, Terry B., Palm Desert, CA  
Kitner, Charles S., Jr., Blairsville, PA  
Klassen, Margaret, Yucaipa, CA  
Knell, James D., Battle Creek, MI  
Kolmetz, Thomas V., Baker, FL  
Kornmueller, K. C., Colorado Springs, CO  
Kroll, Gladys V., Lombard, IL  
Krum, Kenneth R., Las Vegas, NV  
Kumpe, Ernest J., Visalia, CA  
Kyle, Alvin D., Frostburg, MD  
Labounty, Rachael R., Mitchell, NE  
Lackrone, Marshall I., Lawrence, KS  
Lamonica, Michael, Sr., Houston, TX  
Langley, Carroll E., Bangor, ME  
Langston, Esther Kay, Warrensburg, MO  
Lann, James D., Smithville, MS  
Lanphear, Leonard E., Spokane, WA  
Lantz, Alevene, Okeechobee, FL  
Lantz, Robert L., Okeechobee, FL  
Laquintano, David, Cresco, PA  
Larson, Diane M., Snoqualmie, WA  
Lashley, Walter J., Watertown, NY  
Laughlin, Dave E., Montgomery, TX  
Law, Glenn L., Bisbee, AZ  
Lawson, Charles W., Garland, TX  
Lebsack, Velma, Granbury, TX  
Leech, Robert J., Centerville, TN  
Leffert, Scott B., Colorado Springs, CO  
Leier, Rochus W., Hartland, MN  
Leisy, Willard R., Boise, ID  
Lewis, Doris R., De Soto, KS  
Lewis, Elaine M., Robinson, IL  
Lewis, Leland L., Lubbock, TX  
Lewis, P. Jerome, Greenwood, FL  
Lile, Leslie E., Fresno, CA  
Lindsey, Edward E., Camden, AR  
Lloyd, Margo M., Saint Paul, MN  
Loftis, Douglas W., Windham, ME  
Logan, Raymond G., Jr., Gainesville, TX  
Looper, Evelyn R., Tulsa, OK  
Lopez, Antonio, Fontana, CA  
Lopez, Epifanio, Orlando, FL  
Lopez, Eusebio, Juncos, PR  
Loughmiller, Lawrence, Leesburg, GA  
Loven, Raymond H., Springfield, MO  
Lugo, Benita, Canutillo, TX  
Lum, Richard R., Cleveland, TX  
Lundmark, Timothy P., Whitehouse, TX  
Lusby, Vernon D., Duncan, OK  
Lytle, Doris W., Cedar Hill, TX  
Mabry, James E., Dallas, TX  
Maddicks, Wesley J., Moses Lake, WA  
Maldonado, Clovis, Farmington, NM  
Malki, Elias A., Upland, CA  
Mangum, Philip N., Fort Worth, TX  
Mariner, Annie J., Shreveport, LA  
Marquez, Emilio, Bristol, CT  
Marshall, Jessie G., Stafford, TX  
Martin, George R., Clute, TX  
Martin, Mildred L., Falling Waters, WV  
Martinez, Alicia, Weslaco, TX  
Martinez, Arsenio, Alvin, TX  
Martinez, Fermin, Irvine, CA  
Martinez, Luis G., Hughson, CA  
Martinez-Vilar, Aurea, San Juan, PR  
Mason, Donald G., Gooding, ID  
Mason, Earlene, Cumberland, MD  
Mason, Ervin W., Jr., Cumberland, MD  
Mason, Hugh B., Virginia Beach, VA  
Massey, W. Michael, Sycamore, IL  
Mastromauro, Vincent, Elmwood Park, IL  
Matlock, Glenn R., Walla Walla, WA  
Maurice, Victor, High Springs, FL  
Mayfield, Charles S., West Monroe, LA

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayhugh, Clyde R., Jacksonville, IL  
 McCann, William A., Belton, TX  
 McCormick, George W., Tallahassee, FL  
 McCullough, John H., Murrieta, CA  
 McDaniel, Darrell T., Dublin, VA  
 McDonald, Douglas K., Timpson, TX  
 McDonald, Helen Y., Marietta, OK  
 McDonald, Martha B., Mabank, TX  
 McDonald, Patsy R., Port Saint Lucie, FL  
 McDuff, Colman B., Montgomery, TX  
 McElhenny, Phillip E., Kingsport, TN  
 McFalls, Jeffery L., Crawfordville, FL  
 McFarland, William T., Moore, OK  
 McGarity, Robert S., Savannah, GA  
 McGechie, Paul R., Export, PA  
 McLean, Donnel G., Aromas, CA  
 McNew, Robert C., Barnesville, GA  
 McWerther, M. Barbara, Ava, IL  
 Medina, Ines, Bayamon, PR  
 Menchaca, Nicanor, Jr., Lodi, CA  
 Mercer, Randol L., Girard, IL  
 Merlo, Anna V., Bronx, NY  
 Merritt, Donald E., Cedar Hill, MO  
 Messick, David M., Fredericksburg, VA  
 Meyer, Bill J., Norman, OK  
 Michael, Ronald W., Indianapolis, IN  
 Midyett, Robert H., Jr., Show Low, AZ  
 Mikaele, Ala, Lacey, WA  
 Milbrath, Daniel R., Pasadena, TX  
 Miles, David N., Salado, TX  
 Miller, Donald D., Brick, NJ  
 Miller, Merwin S., Janesville, MN  
 Miller, Vernon F., Portage, MI  
 Millsaps, Jennings, Port Charlotte, FL  
 Mincks, Owen E., Bella Vista, AR  
 Ming, Willie H., Springdale, AR  
 Miranda, Luis M., Hialeah, FL  
 Mitchell, Allen E., Lakeland, FL  
 Mixon, James L., Senatobia, MS  
 Mizell, Sammy, Lakeland, FL  
 Modisette, Ruby E., Lawrenceburg, TN  
 Monson, James P., Bonita Springs, FL  
 Montgomery, David L., Newton, NC  
 Mooberry, Evelyn D., Knoxville, IA  
 Moore, G., Neal, Quincy, IL  
 Moore, Grace A., Franklin, VA  
 Moore, Marie A., Springboro, OH  
 Morales, Matias R., Carson, CA  
 Morales, Pablo S., Seguin, TX  
 Morgan, Carl R., Cleveland, TX  
 Morris, Woodrow E., Spiro, OK  
 Mucci, Daniel A., Sr., Queensbury, NY  
 Murphy, Jerome W., Plant City, FL  
 Murphy, Lawrence, Dalton, GA  
 Myers, Walter S., Mechanicsville, VA  
 Naidoo, Johnson, Aurora, IL  
 Najita, Tadashi, Tulsa, OK  
 Nelson, Verlyn W., Clear Lake, MN  
 Nervik, Richard O., Milford, NH  
 Nesler, Oscar O'Neal, Hickory Ridge, AR  
 Nesta, Helen, Severn, MD  
 Nevitt, B. G., Decatur, IL  
 Newby, Edgar L., Tulsa, OK  
 Newman, Gwendolyn R., Bossier City, LA  
 Newman, Robert L., Jr., Lake Placid, FL  
 Nichols, W. Harold, Fort Worth, TX  
 Nollsch, Everett B., Costa Mesa, CA  
 North, Jerry D., Stuttgart, AR  
 Northcutt, Lindy G., Dallas, TX  
 Nunez, Perfecto, San Antonio, TX  
 Nunley, J. Scott, Osceola, IN  
 Nybakken, Vernon W., Kelso, WA  
 Odom, Hancel L., New River, AZ  
 Odom, William F., Geneva, AL  
 Oertel, Frank D., Tijeras, NM  
 Ogden, Gregory P., Willard, MO  
 Ohlin, Morris P., Mesa, AZ  
 Ohse, Betty S., Kenai, AK  
 Oliver, Abraham, Jenkintown, PA  
 Oliver, Billie G., Apple Valley, CA  
 Olson, Esther E., Madras, OR  
 Olson, Lawrence G., Bridgman, MI  
 Olson, Leonard W., Poulsbo, WA  
 O'Neal, Jewell F., Columbus, GA  
 Orchard, Richard E., Iron River, MI  
 Orcutt, Clarke E., Kenmore, WA

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Ortiz, Angel L., Orlando, FL  
Ortiz, Leticia, Orlando, FL  
Ortiz, Louis R., Lake Elsinore, CA  
Ortiz, Ramon L., Sr., New York, NY  
Overbey, Jackie L., Longmont, CO  
Owen, Oneal M., Taylors, SC  
Owens, Calvin C., Springfield, MO  
Pace, Charles E., Springfield, MO  
Padgett, John D., Dublin, GA  
Paez, Mark A., Dallas, TX  
Pannell, Valeria R., Post Falls, ID  
Panzetta, John C., Bushnell, FL  
Paproski, John J., Trenton, NJ  
Parker, Lillie I., Germantown, TN  
Parker, Michael S., Monroe, LA  
Parks, Glen W., Redding, CA  
Parritt, Jerry R., Frankfort, KY  
Partridge, Jesse M., Amity, AR  
Patten, Harry J., Marshalltown, IA  
Patterson, George S., Weaverville, NC  
Paulk, Lenora L., Rockledge, FL  
Pazmino, Rommel I., Cottage City, MD  
Peaden, Addison, Milton, FL  
Pearson, Burton L., Moses Lake, WA  
Pearson, David N., Everett, WA  
Peck, J. Montiel, Springfield, MO  
Pedersen, Clarence A., Deland, FL  
Pence, Roger I., Acme, PA  
Pennington, Bruce, Winchester, CA  
Penrose, Ronald E., San Andreas, CA  
Perry, Rachel P., McAllen, TX  
Perry, Ruth V., Quemado, TX  
Petersen, Ruby Mae, Sandy, UT  
Peterson, Homer L., Jr., Portsmouth, VA  
Peterson, Kevin W., Red Oak, TX  
Pettibone, Earl K., Sr., Jacksonville, FL  
Pezzino, Charles, Hamburg, NY  
Phagan, G. C., Van Buren, AR  
Phifer, James D., Tulsa, OK  
Philp, Lowell D., Dothan, AL  
Pigman, Dennis G., Jacksonville, AR  
Pilapil, Michael A., Kailua Kona, HI  
Pinkerton, Michael A., Milford, MA  
Pinson, Ray D., Houston, TX  
Pirtle, Robert W., Sr., El Dorado Hills, CA  
Polly, Elyse R., Loma Linda, CA  
Porter, Bunion H., Jemison, AL  
Posey, Joyce J., Shreveport, LA  
Postell, Dennis E., Sr., Punta Gorda, FL  
Powell, Eleanor, Lakeland, FL  
Powell, Frances J., Wolcott, CT  
Powell, Harold G., Sr., Sapulpa, OK  
Price, Henry H., Pottsboro, TX  
Proffitt, Richard R., Shuqualak, MS  
Pruitt, W. Jack, Dallas, TX  
Pryor, Kelly E., Boss, MO  
Rainbow, Robert W., Myerstown, PA  
Rains, Winfred L., Jacksonville, MO  
Randall, Mark A., Murray, KY  
Recene, John J., Shickshinny, PA  
Reckley, Florice A., Cumberland, MD  
Reed, William P., Charles Town, WV  
Regalado, Daniel M., Spokane, WA  
Reid, G. Dean, Sierra Vista, AZ  
Renker, Linda A., Southington, CT  
Reyes, Mary Angel, Cleveland, WI  
Reyes, Richard V., Cleveland, WI  
Reynolds, Wanetta M., Shawnee, OK  
Rhodes, E. Michael, Sentinel, OK  
Ricci, Michelino, Bridgton, ME  
Rice, Albert D., Truth or Consequences, NM  
Rice, Howard A., Gulf Breeze, FL  
Rich, Donald A., North Fork, CA  
Richardson, William C., Lakeland, FL  
Richter, Marvin J., Bethlehem, PA  
Richwine, Wilmer K., Plant City, FL  
Ridgway, Frederick L., Mitchellville, IA  
Rientjes, Cornelius, Lynden, WA  
Ringness, Curtis W., Palm Desert, CA  
Risner, Jack E., Springfield, MO  
Rivera, Angelica, Juncos, PR  
Rivera, Nydia L., Hormigueros, PR  
Robbins, Frances L., Philadelphia, MS  
Robbins, Orval W., Edgar Springs, MO  
Robinette, Louie F., Clanton, AL  
Robins, Coleen M., Bonners Ferry, ID

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Rockstad, Johan S., Williston, ND  
 Rodgers, Billy J., Laurel, MS  
 Rodgers, Charlotte M., Portland, OR  
 Rodriguez, Cesar, Port Jervis, NY  
 Rodriguez, Jorge E., Springfield, MA  
 Rodriguez, Ricardo, Tampa, FL  
 Rogers, Darrel W., Lowell, AR  
 Rohde, Erwin E., Polson, MT  
 Rolland, Ernest L., Comanche, OK  
 Roman, Florentino, Middleburg Heights, OH  
 Roper, Hayward B., Sr., Harlem, GA  
 Rosario, Ramon, Land O'Lakes, FL  
 Rose, Phillip G., Evanston, WY  
 Ross, Gordon A., Mount Union, PA  
 Rust, Larry D., Stockton, CA  
 Rutledge, Waymon P., Valencia, CA  
 Ryan, Howard S., Kannapolis, NC  
 Ryan, Patsy M., Claremore, OK  
 Saghin, Mircia, Painesville, OH  
 Saldivar, Samuel B., Jr., Raymondville, TX  
 Samuels, Charles W., Spokane, WA  
 Sanchez, Enrique, Holland, MI  
 Sanders, D. Leroy, Roseville, CA  
 Sanders, Gerald L., Salt Lake City, UT  
 Sanford, Onie Lee, Celina, TX  
 Santeusanio, Robert A., Wethersfield, CT  
 Sasscer, Virginia M., Prince Frederick, MD  
 Sawyer, Donald D., Bryant, AR  
 Schaeffer, Raymond F., Las Cruces, NM  
 Schernbeck, Bernadine, New Orleans, LA  
 Schmidt, Fred C., Rittman, OH  
 Schmock, Winston A., Winter Springs, FL  
 Seagert, Harold E., Sr., Summerfield, FL  
 Seda, Miguel, Reading, PA  
 Senn, O. L., Tyler, TX  
 Shaver, James R., Clarkrange, TN  
 Shavers, James E., Columbus, GA  
 Shaw, June L., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Sheehan, Bridget E., Milwaukee, WI  
 Shell, Mark H., Wayne City, IL  
 Shelton, L. Austin, Laguna Woods, CA  
 Shelton, Ray H., Green Forest, AR  
 Shepherd, William D., Houston, TX  
 Sheridan, J. Clayton, Jr., Mechanicsburg, PA  
 Shifflett, Delton L., Marlin, TX  
 Shipley, Annabelle, Twin Falls, ID  
 Shoots, Jean, Port Saint Joe, FL  
 Shortes, Ruby N., Waxahachie, TX  
 Shuttlesworth, A. E., Idamay, WV  
 Silvermail, Thelma J., Duncanville, TX  
 Simpson, Angela J., Steelville, MO  
 Singh, Ramsarran, Valley Stream, NY  
 Siter, Patricia A., Lake City, FL  
 Skeens, Frank A., Jr., Castlewood, VA  
 Slape, Eugene G., The Dalles, OR  
 Slay, Thomas N., Lucedale, MS  
 Smith, Arthur, Martin, KY  
 Smith, David J., Loogootee, IN  
 Smith, Harold L., Tacoma, WA  
 Smith, John L., Jr., Cubero, NM  
 Smith, Richard H., Jr., West Columbia, TX  
 Smith, Wesley W., Matthews, NC  
 Smith, William R., New Bern, NC  
 Snyder, Lavern H., La Grange, KY  
 Snyder, Marvin E., Virginia Beach, VA  
 Sollers, Michael E., Great Falls, SC  
 Sommerville, Ollen, Azle, TX  
 Soto, Agapito, Bayamon, PR  
 Soto, Elisa, Cherry Hill, NJ  
 Spann, Hubert J., Opp, AL  
 Spencer, E. Charlese, Albuquerque, NM  
 Spilman, Claude E., Springfield, MO  
 Spinden, Paul, Kansas City, MO  
 Starr, Donald E., Edmonds, WA  
 Stein, Alan E., North Bellmore, NY  
 Stemple, Betty L., Oakland, MD  
 Stephens, Cheryl A., Wilmore, KY  
 Stephens, William, Jr., Greensboro, FL  
 Stepp, David A., Bakersfield, CA  
 Stepp, H. Joyce, Riverside, CA  
 Stettler, Frederick E., Las Vegas, NV  
 Stetz, John, Westlake, OH  
 Stevens, Ronald E., Hemet, CA  
 Steward, Stan S., Jr., Winesburg, OH  
 Stewart, James H., Ash Grove, MO  
 Stewart, James S., McIntosh, AL



GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Stokes, O. L., Tifton, GA  
Strange, Thurman R., Gulf Breeze, FL  
Stratton, Richard L., Flora, IL  
Strietelmeier, Paul W., Indianapolis, IN  
Sturdivant, Mary E., Butler, AL  
Sua, Tuusolo, Colorado Springs, CO  
Sula, Pamata A., Honolulu, HI  
Sumner, Virginia E., Nampa, ID  
Sutera, Joseph, Lake Worth, FL  
Sutton, James A., Sr., Decatur, IL  
Swanson, Freddie L., Commerce City, CO  
Swanson, James R., Portland, OR  
Talaga, Tamaligi M., Spanaway, WA  
Talbot, Robert L., Sr., Pensacola, FL  
Tanner, Calvin F., Lockhart, AL  
Tanton, William H., Votaw, TX  
Tappero, John M., Renton, WA  
Tate, A. Otto, Centerville, MO  
Taylor, Arthur W., Bayard, NE  
Taylor, Billy G., North Fork, CA  
Taylor, Earl A., Bethany, OK  
Taylor, Naomi, Hastings, MI  
Taylor, Priscilla W., Carmichael, CA  
Tennant, Louise, Fairview, WV  
Thigpen, Ronald H., Spotsylvania, VA  
Thomas, Delores K., El Dorado, AR  
Thomas, Mary Jane, Coconut Creek, FL  
Thomas, Ralph G., Spokane, WA  
Thomson, J. W., Chandler, TX  
Thompson, Eddie P., Jena, LA  
Thompson, Edward D., Melbourne, FL  
Thorne, Curtis G., Merlin, OR  
Thornton, Merel G., Mariposa, CA  
Throgmartin, Charles, Jonesboro, AR  
Tidwell, Cary E., Springfield, MO  
Tilley, Euna M., Atkins, AR  
Tims, Benjamin, Sr., Cottage Grove, MN  
Tinch, Kenneth A., Chestnut Ridge, NY  
Tjong, Giok Se, Lakeland, FL  
Todd, Melvin B., Clemmons, NC  
Tollefson, Barbara A., Trinity, FL  
Tomlinson, Michael L., Oak Ridge, TN  
Tornquist, Dennis G., Brevard, NC  
Torres, Joe B., Redlands, CA  
Torres, Juan E., Meriden, CT  
Tracy, Kenneth L., Costa Mesa, CA  
Travis, James L., Lady Lake, FL  
Treese, Ray, Berea, KY  
Trower, Guy W., Springfield, MO  
Trucks, Joseph A., San Jose, CA  
Tucker, Gerald D., Kilgore, TX  
Tuggle, Marvin E., Steger, IL  
Tuirabe, Isikeli V., Sacramento, CA  
Turner, Cecil L., Mobile, AL  
Turner, John George, Longview, WA  
Turner, Ronald G., Fort Worth, TX  
Ulin, William W., Pasco, WA  
Ullestad, Allan L., Urbandale, IA  
Underwood, Larn L., Belvidere, NC  
Upton, Joel F., Brookhaven, MS  
Uribe, Lazaro M., Ellenton, FL  
Valentin, Luis A., Mayaguez, PR  
Van Gorp, Mark A., Nixa, MO  
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# **CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**OF THE**

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**REVISED AUGUST 3–7, 2015**

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

# Constitution

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**Constitution and Bylaws**  
of  
**The General Council of the Assemblies of God**  
in the  
**United States of America and**  
**Selected Territories**

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **Constitutional Declaration**

### **WE BELIEVE:**

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshiped by man, (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the Body or Church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

That the members of the Body, the Church (*ecclesia*) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit set over the church pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

That 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, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling 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.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and

## CONSTITUTION

privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural doctrines and polity, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name is *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, which refers to the legal entity.

The term *General Council* refers to sessions of the corporation.

The term *Assemblies of God* refers to the entire constituency.

### ARTICLE II. NATURE

The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership, and shall be known as a fellowship of churches and credentialed ministers.

### ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- g. To approve scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX and X of the Bylaws.
- h. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

### ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason for being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, as a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world.

## ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

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 all 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).

### The Adorable Godhead

#### (a) Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

#### (b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

#### (c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is **that** in the Father which constitutes Him **the Father** and not the Son; there is **that** in the Son which constitutes Him **the Son** and not the Father; and there is **that** in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him **the Holy Spirit** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zechariah 14:9).



**(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead**

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not **from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17–30,32,37; 8:17,18).

**(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ**

The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ* is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1–3,7; 2 John 3).

**(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us**

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is “Immanuel,” God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).

**(g) The Title, Son of God**

Since the name *Immanuel* embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title *Son of God* describes His proper deity, and the title *Son of Man*, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title *Son of God* belongs to the order of eternity, and the title *Son of Man* to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21–23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1–13).

**(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1–5; Hebrews 12:2).

**(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord**

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32–36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24–28).

**(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son**

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an **unspeakable** joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6–14; Philipians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8–11).

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

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

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

**a. 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 Spirit, 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).

**b. 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**

**a. 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).

**b. 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 of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

## **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit 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 enduement 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 Spirit 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 Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit 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). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit 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; 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 worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. 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; 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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:

- a. 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).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10–16; 1 Corinthians 12–14).
- c. 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 and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22–26; Matthew 25:37–40; Galatians 6:10; 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 fourfold 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), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

## **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 the 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 the 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 burneth 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 dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22).

## **ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its general offices.

## **ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God**

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers holding a current fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 2. Assemblies of God**

The membership of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ministers of the Assemblies of God and all other persons who are members of churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and its district councils.

### **Section 3. Voting Constituency**

The voting constituency at a General Council shall consist of all members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered and those delegates chosen by churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, each church being entitled to one delegate.

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Regular Sessions**

Regular sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be held biennially, pursuant to a call by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 2. Special Sessions**

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be called by the Executive Presbytery if agreed to by a majority of the general presbyters.

### Section 3. Right of Initiative

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God may be called by the Executive Presbytery when presented with a written statement signed by at least 15 ordained Assemblies of God ministers setting forth the reasons for a special session, but only if the Executive Presbytery determines that such a special session is advisable.

## ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

### Section 1. Executive Officers

**a. Corporate officers and terms of office.** The General Council corporate officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer. They shall serve as the officers of the corporation. Their terms of office shall begin 60 days after the date of election, and shall continue for 4 years or until a successor qualifies.

**b. Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. The terms of office for the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

### Section 2. Executive Presbytery

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 15 other persons to bring the number to 21. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

Each nonresident executive presbyter may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. A nonresident executive presbyter who has completed three consecutive four-year terms, is eligible to be nominated and elected again after having not served for four years. If he or she initially fills an unexpired term, he or she would still be eligible for three, four-year terms.

**b. Board of Directors.** The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. *Executive Presbytery* and *Board of Directors* shall be interchangeable terms.

### Section 3. General Presbytery

**a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities.** The General Presbytery shall be composed of individuals of maturity, experience, and ability whose lives and ministry

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are above reproach, who shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work in their respective fields. The General Presbytery shall be the official policy-making body of the Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session. Each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members—the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by their district council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately.

**b. Executive presbyters ex officio members.** All members of the Executive Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

**c. World and U.S. missions representation.** The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the regional directors and the International Ministries director represent. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2)] The stateside missions work shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3)]

**d. Endorsed postsecondary schools representation.** The duly endorsed postsecondary schools of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by their presidents. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (4)]

**e. Evangelists representation.** The Assemblies of God evangelists shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the national evangelists representative. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (5)]

**f. Ethnic fellowship representation.** A duly authorized ethnic fellowship shall be represented on the General Presbytery by one of its qualified members. An ethnic fellowship comprised of more than 100 churches shall be represented by two of its qualified members; and, an ethnic fellowship exceeding 150 churches shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three of its qualified members. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (6)]

**g. Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representation.** The Assemblies of God Office of Ethnic Relations and the Assemblies of God Office of Hispanic Relations shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations.

**h. Additional representation.** One ordained minister under 40 years of age and one female ordained minister shall be selected to represent each geographic area, the Language Area—East Spanish, the Language Area—West Spanish, the Language Area—Other, and the Ethnic Fellowship area as general presbyters. These members shall serve a 1-year term.

**i. Auditors.** Duly qualified auditors may attend the sessions of the General Presbytery. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (8)]

**j. Honorary general presbyters.** Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who (1) have reached the age of 60 years and (2) have served on the General Presbytery

for 20 years or more, or served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer for 8 years or more. The addition of such honorary members shall be in addition to the regular number of presbyters granted each district. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (9)]

## **ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS**

### **Section 1. Membership**

Membership of each district council shall be determined by the district's constitution and bylaws.

### **Section 2. Areas of Supervision**

The district council shall have supervision over all the ecclesial and sacerdotal activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws or in cooperative agreements between the General Council and the district council.

### **Section 3. Districts**

**a. Geographic districts.** A geographic area may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the Bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to its geographical area of operation and may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other language/ethnic district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

**b. Language/Ethnic districts.** A language/ethnic group may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the Bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to ministry among certain language/ethnic groups, and its geographical area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

### **Section 4. Credentialing Authority**

The district council shall have the authority to examine and present candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, or ordained ministers in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws. The applications of such candidates shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for presentation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final review and issuance of the ministerial credential if the qualifications prescribed by Article VII of the Bylaws are satisfied. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such courses and pass examinations as shall be prescribed by the General Presbytery unless an exception is provided for in the Bylaws.

### **Section 5. Areas of Authority**

The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings.



## **Section 6. Relationship With the General Council**

The district council shall not violate the Constitution or Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In the prosecution of its work the district council shall keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is unalterably dedicated. It shall be amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and the discipline of ministers.

# **ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**

## **Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**a. Requirements for affiliation.** Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members, an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;
- (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a district council; and
- (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

**b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district councils.** A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and district councils and may send delegates to the General Council and district councils.

**c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights).** Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name

as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

**d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity.** A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and polity and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI, Section 4, of the Bylaws.)

**e. Right of appeal.** When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

## **Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies**

Provision shall be made by the district councils for district council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of the district council constitution and bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

## **Section 3. Parent Affiliated Churches**

Provision shall be made by district councils for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

## **Section 4. Cooperating Assemblies**

Provision may be made by district councils and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the district council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the district council and the General Council.

## **Section 5. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation**

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan.

# **ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION**

The assets of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as stated in its Articles of

## CONSTITUTION

Agreement and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after providing for the payment of its debts and obligations, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but will be distributed to one or more nonprofit organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing at least 6 months in advance to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall provide written notice of the proposed amendments by regular or electronic mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary and to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, not later than 30 days prior to said session. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

**BYLAWS**  
**OF**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**OF THE**  
**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**REVISED AUGUST 3–7, 2015**

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

# Bylaws

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# BYLAWS

OF

## THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

### ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

The work of the General Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

### ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS

#### Section 1. Officers

The officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at its regular meetings in the manner provided in these Bylaws. They shall be ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be persons of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

#### Section 2. Nominations and Elections

**a. General superintendent and assistant general superintendent.** All candidates for the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent shall be nominated by receiving 15 votes or more by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot, the 15 candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

**b. Other officers.** The general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be elected in the following manner: The General Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of available candidates for these offices and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented for each office to the General Council in session for election. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by

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secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the General Council shall be by selecting “yes” or “no.” There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

### **c. Nonresident executive presbyters**

(1) *Nominations and elections.* The General Council shall have the right to elect additional officers to serve on the Executive Presbytery as provided in Constitution, Article IX, Section 2.

(a) *By area.* The nominations for 11 area nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and elect. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* The nominations for one ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter shall be made as follows: Each general presbyter from an ethnic fellowship, serving in the year General Council meets, shall be presented to the General Council as a nominee from the respective ethnic fellowships. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and elect.

(2) *Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters.*

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into 11 areas, according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

*Northwest Area:* Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho, Wyoming

*Southwest Area:* Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California-Nevada, Rocky Mountain, Southern California

*North Central Area:* Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northern Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

*South Central Area:* Kansas, New Mexico, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Texas, West Texas

*Great Lakes Area:* Appalachian, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

*Gulf Area:* Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southern Missouri, Tennessee

*Northeast Area:* New Jersey, New York, Northern New England, Pennsylvania-Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England

*Southeast Area:* Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Peninsular Florida, South Carolina, West Florida

*Language Area–East Spanish:* Florida Multicultural, Midwest Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southern Latin, Spanish Eastern

*Language Area–West Spanish:* Central District/Distrito Central, Northern Pacific Latin American, Northwest Hispanic, South Central Hispanic, Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Gulf Hispanic, Texas Louisiana Hispanic, West Texas and Plains

*Language Area–Other:* Brazilian, German, Korean, National Slavic, Samoan, Second Korean

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Bylaws, Article V, Section 8) shall be represented.

(c) *Additional representation.* The nomination process for three additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate three individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age requirement), and one ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). The members of the Executive Board of the National Black Fellowship shall also be considered nominees for the African-American ordained minister. From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election, four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), and four names of ordained African-American ministers (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

#### **d. General presbyters**

(1) *District representatives.* In addition to the superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church or a person involved in other ministry located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions, representing the missionaries from their respective areas, are members of the General Presbytery by virtue of office. Two additional representatives on the General Presbytery from each region and International Ministries shall be chosen in the following manner: The Assemblies of God World Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries from each general area and International Ministries represented by the regional directors and the International Ministries director. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery meeting and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field. Ballots shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect.



(3) *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions representatives.* Departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be members of the General Presbytery by virtue of their office.

(4) *Endorsed postsecondary school representatives.* Endorsed postsecondary school representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(5) *Evangelists representative.* The national evangelists representative as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, shall be a member of the General Presbytery.

(6) *Ethnic fellowship representatives.* Ethnic fellowship representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph f, shall be elected biennially by their respective ethnic fellowships. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(7) *Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representatives.* The director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(8) *Auditors.*

(a) National directors elected by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery shall serve as auditors of the General Presbytery.

(b) The legal counsel of the General Council shall be granted the privilege of auditing the General Presbytery meetings.

(c) A district may select no more than one auditor for all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery. Any auditor selected by a district shall be one of its full-time executive presbyters or officers. Expenses for the district auditors shall not be the responsibility of the General Council.

(d) Auditors may be added as approved by the Executive Presbytery.

(e) Auditors shall be without vote and shall have voice only at the request of the chairman. They shall absent themselves from any executive session of the General Presbytery.

(9) *Honorary members.* Honorary general presbyters as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, shall have the right of voice and vote at all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery.

(10) *Additional representation.* Each district and ethnic fellowship may nominate two qualified ministers—one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry. The nominations for each area and all ethnic fellowships shall be voted on as follows:

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry, each district within the eight respective geographical areas and three language areas shall elect on an annual rotational basis qualified members to serve on the General Presbytery for one year, with no more than one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry serving from an area in any one year. The representation shall be determined on an alphabetical basis of the districts within each area according to an annual schedule set by the Executive Presbytery.

(b) *By ethnic fellowships.* Each year the Executive Presbytery shall designate by feasibility, on a rotational schedule, which ethnic fellowship shall elect for a 1-year term one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry.

### Section 3. Vacancies

a. **Executive officers.** In the event any of the executive offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council; with the exception that, in the event of a vacancy in the office of general superintendent for any reason, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council; or, in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

#### b. Nonresident executive presbyters

##### (1) *By area.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an area nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall request each district council within that area (see Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c) to submit two nominees for the office. The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(b) Should a vacancy occur so close to the time of the meeting of the General Presbytery that insufficient time remains for district councils to select and submit nominees in the above manner, then nominees shall be obtained by a caucus of the general presbyters of the area involved. Such caucus to be held during the meeting of the General Presbytery.

(c) Nominees shall be voted upon by the entire General Presbytery until one receives two-thirds of all votes cast.

(d) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, the Executive Presbytery shall declare a vacancy in that office.

##### (2) *By ethnic fellowship.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall submit as nominees all current general presbyters who represent an ethnic fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 8.) The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted, to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(b) Nominees shall be voted upon by the entire General Presbytery until one receives two-thirds of all votes cast.

**c. General presbyters**

(1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall appoint one to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

(2) In the event an elected general presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the district executive presbytery or district presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided the alternate meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyters. The alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of a regularly elected general presbyter. The district shall present certification of an alternate to the general secretary not later than the opening session of the General Presbytery.

**Section 4. Removal for Cause**

The Executive Presbytery by two-thirds vote may remove an officer from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds, not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of the Assemblies of God. Such a decision by the Executive Presbytery shall not be effective unless and until it is ratified by the General Presbytery by two-thirds vote.

**ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS,  
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent**

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

a. Emphasize and implement the fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.

b. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.

d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.

e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.

f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team and receive all communications directed to these bodies.

g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.

h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).

- i. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.
- j. Cast primary vision for the Fellowship along with the other executive officers.
- k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and the National Leadership and Resource Center personnel.
- l. Strategically network with other fellowships.
- m. Give consultation in hiring staff at departmental level of leadership or above.
- n. Lead Tier I leadership, executive officers, and the Executive Presbytery.

## **Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendent**

The duties of the assistant general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Assist the general superintendent.
- b. Serve as vice-president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team in the absence of the general superintendent.
- c. Perform any other functions under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

## **Section 3. Duties of the General Secretary**

The duties of the general secretary shall include the following:

- a. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the General Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, and assemblies of the Fellowship.
- c. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- d. Serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the General Council Credentials Committee, and the Executive Leadership Team and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

## **Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer**

The duties of the general treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Serve as custodian of all funds of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting principles.
- b. Provide budgets and financial reports as periodically requested by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

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c. Provide oversight of an internal auditor, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall be directly accountable to the Executive Leadership Team and the Executive Presbytery.

d. Provide oversight of the preparation of an annual audit of the financial records of The General Council of the Assemblies of God by an independent auditor, prepared in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards.

e. Give fidelity and such other bonds in amounts periodically determined by the Executive Presbytery.

f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions**

The executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

a. Direct the world missions activities of the Fellowship.

b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governments or authorities where our world missions work is involved.

c. Distribute all world missions funds as directed by the World Missions Committee.

d. Keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.

e. Serve as chairperson of the World Missions Committee and World Missions Board.

f. Keep a record of all official acts of the World Missions Board and other committees of the division.

g. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.

h. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions**

The executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

a. Direct the U.S. missions activities of the Fellowship, insofar as such activities are not already directed within and by the respective district councils of the General Council.

b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governing authorities where U.S. missions work is involved.

c. Distribute all U.S. missions funds as directed by the U.S. Missions Committee.

- d. Serve as chairperson of the U.S. Missions Board and U.S. Missions Committee.
- e. Keep a record of all official acts of the U.S. Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- f. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.
- g. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

## **Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery**

The Executive Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Serve as the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. They shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight of all departments. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the General Council is not in session, subject to the provisions of paragraphs h and k of Section 7 of this Article.
- b. Interpret policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presbytery. Such interpretations shall be final unless reversed at the next meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.
- c. Buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind; to borrow monies as deemed necessary and to issue bonds of whatsoever kind, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- d. Hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.
- e. Issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.
- f. Purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.
- g. Arrange for and announce the meetings of the General Council, with consideration for the interests of the Fellowship as a whole. The decision of time and place for such meetings shall rest in their hands.
- h. Call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.
- i. Make a report to the General Council of their activities on behalf of the Fellowship as may be directed.
- j. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the Executive Presbytery, as trustees thereof, and the president and the general secretary shall be authorized and they hereby are authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.
- k. Be amenable to the General Presbytery in all matters under the functions and duties of the General Presbytery.

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- I. Protect and enhance the vision of the executive officers.
- m. Provide oversight of internal operations of the National Leadership and Resource Center as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

### **Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team**

The executive officers shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery and perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Serve as the executive arm of the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at the National Leadership and Resource Center.
- c. Execute those matters delegated to it by the Executive Presbytery.
- d. Give administrative oversight to all General Council offices.
- e. Support the spiritual thrust and vision of the Fellowship.
- f. Lead assigned ministries.
- g. Manage internal operations of the National Leadership and Resource Center as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

### **Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery**

The General Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Advance the mission of the Assemblies of God by promoting effective ministry and harmonious relationships among all churches, credentialed ministers, ministries, institutions, and entities of the Fellowship.
- b. Be the policy-making body.
- c. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister or a district appealing a decision of the General Council Credentials Committee.
- d. Determine the salaries and allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of five general presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. It shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action.
- e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery whenever 10 percent or more of the members of the General Presbytery so requests.
- f. Any district council by the action of its district presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.

### **Section 10. Meetings**

Members of the Executive Presbytery, or any committee designated by the Executive Presbytery, General Presbytery, or General Council, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or other communications device by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Presbytery.

## ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

### Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the credentials committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said credentials committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received district endorsement. It may delegate the routine work of the credentials committee to the Executive Leadership Team.

### Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained and licensed ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the General Council. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

### Section 4. Resolutions Committee

**a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions.** A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the General Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the general secretary's office at least 100 days prior to a General Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed or electronic form and send them to the General Council ministers and churches at least 30 days prior to the General Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery meetings just prior to the General Council, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the General Council.

**b. Sponsorship policy.** All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the General Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.



**c. Scriptural interpretation.** Except for resolutions submitted by the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, or a district council, resolutions that involve scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity when in the judgment of the Resolutions Committee such an action is needful. The commission shall evaluate and draft a brief assessment of the scriptural interpretation embodied in the resolution. The assessment, stating their agreement or disagreement with the scriptural interpretation, shall accompany the resolution when presented to the General Council for consideration.

**d. Appropriateness of resolutions.** The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may include those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with appropriateness for discussion by the General Council. A resolution passed by a district council in session shall always be deemed appropriate.

**e. Right of sponsor.** If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the General Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

**f. Format of presentation.** The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
- (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
- (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

## **Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee**

A Spiritual Life Committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery, selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function for a 2-year period and report to the biennial meeting of the General Council and to the Executive Presbytery as feasible.

## **Section 6. Other Committees**

Other committees may be appointed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

# **ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS**

## **Section 1. Formation of New Districts**

**a. Conference status.** When there is potential for the development of a new district, the first step shall be the establishing of a conference that would be mentored by an assisting district(s) until the new district is capable of independent operation. Such conference shall function for a minimum of 2 years, or longer if so directed by the Executive Presbytery, prior to becoming a district unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery. The conference shall operate as directed by approved Executive Presbytery criteria.

**b. Guidelines.** Guidelines for establishing new districts shall include:

- (1) A minimum of 40 Assemblies of God churches sponsored by an existing district and having voted to become a part of the new district at the

beginning of the conference unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the churches as to membership, leadership, and program ministries.

(3) The location, size, and potential growth of the geographical area under consideration.

(4) The effect the establishment of the proposed new district will have on other districts.

(5) Churches and ministers that have voted to become a part of the new conference shall be required to contribute one-third of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the first year, two-thirds of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the second year, and contribute the full amount of tithes or dues as determined by the newly established district during the third year and following.

**c. Boundaries.** The boundaries of the new district shall be determined by cooperative agreement between the district or districts geographically affected and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## **Section 2. The Role of the District**

The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats; and relates to the General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district oversees district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and discipline for its constituents.

## **Section 3. Officers**

Each district council shall elect a superintendent, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the district membership, such as, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and presbyters. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the district council.

## **Section 4. Voting Constituency**

The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, and such other persons as may be prescribed by the district constitution and bylaws, who are present and registered at district meetings.

## **Section 5. Presbyters**

Districts are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter.

## Section 6. Language/Ethnic Districts

**a. Recognition qualifications.** In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, a language/ethnic group must have a minimum number of 40 churches.

**b. Equality of districts.** Language/ethnic and geographic districts shall have the same privileges and responsibilities within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws.

**c. Cooperative relationship.** Both the language/ethnic district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The language/ethnic district officers and the geographical district officers should inform or consult with each other concerning the opening of new language works or institutions of any kind, in a given area. It is strongly recommended that the language/ethnic district and the geographical district appoint representatives to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or language/ethnic district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.

**d. Sponsorship and affiliation of a language/ethnic group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a language/ethnic group or a language/ethnic church desire to initiate sponsorship of an English-speaking group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The respective districts/fellowships should inform their counterparts concerning the beginning of such churches. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and support to such a work through its district U.S. missions department. Such an effort may be initiated with the objective in mind that it will develop into an Assemblies of God church. When such a church reaches as many as 20 adult members, unless an exception has been granted by a district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these Bylaws.

**e. Church transfer procedure.** When a church desires to transfer from a language/ethnic district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to a language/ethnic district, a church business meeting shall be called and the minutes of said meeting shall reflect the action authorized by the congregation. This action shall be submitted to the officers of the language/ethnic district and the geographical district. If either district has objections, the church shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

## Section 7. Dissolution of District

**a. Loss of recognition.** In the event an existing district shall have less than 40 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease, unless an exception is granted by the General Presbytery.

**b. General Presbytery prerogative.** Dissolution of a district shall be the prerogative of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## **Section 8. Language/Ethnic Fellowships**

Language/Ethnic groups may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery, in accordance with Executive Presbytery criteria, to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. Although functioning as a fellowship, the ethnic churches shall remain affiliated with the appropriate district. When a language/ethnic group recognized by the Executive Presbytery functions as a fellowship and represents a specific number of churches determined by and within a district, a presbyter shall be appointed or elected from the language/ethnic fellowship to represent the language/ethnic fellowship within a district. Leadership for the fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

# **ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES**

## **Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation**

It shall be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3). The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

a. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the district in which it is located. The district council shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.

b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the district who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and bylaws acceptable to the district.

c. An existing, mature church that desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the district council for guidance and assistance.

d. Upon approval by the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the general secretary. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final.

## **Section 2. Annual Report and Offerings From Assemblies**

a. **Annual Church Ministries Report.** Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership and to report this information annually, on forms provided, to the office of the district secretary and the General Council secretary.

**b. Fellowship Partners Offering.** It is recommended that each church send to the General Council at least one offering for each calendar year toward the support of the administrative offices of the General Council. This offering shall be called Fellowship Partners offering, and shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that each church's minimal offering be based upon its average Sunday morning attendance. A church averaging less than 50 is asked to send \$25 for the year; less than 100 but more than 50, \$50; less than 250 but more than 100, \$100; less than 500 but more than 250, \$250; less than 1,000 but more than 500, \$500; less than 2,000 but more than 1,000, \$1,000; over 2,000, \$2,000.

**c. Assemblies of God Total Giving**

(1) *Participation.* In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches are encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals.

(2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings that are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of Assemblies of God Total Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis, and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

(3) *Credit.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, church music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the National Leadership and Resource Center. It is expected that the National Leadership and Resource Center division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

### **Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies**

a. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister, or pastor. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.

b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.

#### **Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council**

a. **Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and polity. (See Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d.)

b. **Relationships.** Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

c. **Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When district officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15–17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. District officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

d. **Preservation of affiliation.** In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.

#### **Section 5. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the

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district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3).

### Section 6. New Assemblies

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committees, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

### Section 7. Assemblies Resulting From a Division

**a. Status of assembly.** When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the district should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and district policy, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

**b. Status of minister.** Circumstances in each case will determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3, of the Bylaws.

### Section 8. Transfer of Local Church Membership

**a. Letter of introduction.** It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to affiliate.

**b. Acknowledgment of transfer.** It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

## ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

### Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8).

We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years, unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than those described in this section.

## Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- a. **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church (Constitution, Article V, paragraph 10).
- c. **Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- d. **Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- e. **Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- f. **Assemblies of God polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and district council Constitution and Bylaws.
- g. **Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.



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For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

**h. Basic education requirements.** Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the district credentials committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices; and either
- (2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the district credentials committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
- (3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
- (4) Be recommended by a district credentials committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a district for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

**i. Mandatory screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the district council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.

**j. Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15), except as hereinafter provided.

**k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding

a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

**l. Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

**m. Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the district presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

### Section 3. Specific Qualifications

**a. Residency requirements of applicants.** Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

**b. Local church credential.** A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church).

**c. Certified minister.**

- (1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.
- (2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to the ministry license level within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.
- (3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:
  - (a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for 1 year and shall not be renewed more than two times.
  - (b) A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a 3-year period.

**d. Licensed minister.** Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

**e. Ordained minister.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:7–9). In addition:

- (1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
- (2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.

- (3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
- (4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination at least 1 year. Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for 2 full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.
- (5) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.
- (6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

#### **Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee**

The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. Final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee. All ordination services, with the laying on of hands, shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

#### **Section 5. Certificates**

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue ordination certificates, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved candidates.

#### **Section 6. Official List**

**a. Active ministers.** The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the General Council Credentials Committee and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

**b. Inactive or disabled ministers.** All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time

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ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

- (1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.
- (2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is inactive for 2 or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.
- (3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as the National Leadership and Resource Center or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.
- (4) *Ministers with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

**c. Restoration to active status.** Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the district officary.

### Section 7. Senior Ministers

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders who have reached the age of 65, whether or not they continue in full-time ministry.

#### **a. Terminology**

- (1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve more than half-time in the ministry.
- (2) The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half-time or less.
- (3) The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

**b. Application for retired category.** Senior-semiretired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secretary shall forward annually to the general secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

**c. Guidelines**

(1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

(2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.

(3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers*.

(4) *Support of General Council National Leadership and Resource Center.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council National Leadership and Resource Center as set forth in Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

**d. Aged Ministers Assistance.** It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches contribute regularly to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity, and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following basis:

(1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a spouse of a minister.

(3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

(4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officers.

**e. Limitations of this Section 7**

(1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 7 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official legislation under which their members serve.

(2) *Other financial responsibility not circumvented.* No part of Section 7 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the biblical responsibility for tithing.

## Section 8. Ministerial Relations

**a. Amenability.** All certified, licensed, and ordained ministers shall be amenable to both the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws, Article X.) All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and district council in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1.)

**b. Affiliation with district of residence.** All credential holders shall be expected to affiliate with the district council within the boundaries of which they reside and work in cooperation with the same.

(1) *Exception.* Ministers who reside in one district but pastor or serve on the staff of a church located in another district shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located.

(2) *Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries shall become members of the district in which they serve and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that district by the office of the general secretary. They may also retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district while on official furlough.

(3) *Church-planting ministries.* Ministers who serve in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) They have a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to these Bylaws governing interdistrict relations. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

Church planters holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district for such time as they serve in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed U.S. missionary. [See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph (3).]

**c. Cooperation with other districts.** Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers conform to the financial policy of the district with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:

(1) *Financial responsibility of world missionaries.* World missionaries will be obligated to pay \$25 per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and \$10 per month when resident on their fields.

(2) *Financial responsibility of chaplains.* All chaplains, military and institutional, will be obligated to their home district in the amount of 10 percent of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy. All chaplains are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their assignments.

(3) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed or approved U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed or approved U.S. missionaries shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their member district where they serve and 25 percent of their tithe to their home district if they are listed as honorary members. Missionaries who minister in their home district shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of their tithe to that district.

**d. Assemblies of God World Missions regional credentials validation.** Credentialed ministers working and residing outside the United States, not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions, are required to communicate their residency and ministry status to the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for the purpose of credentials renewal. Their credentialing district shall also instruct said minister to do so as a prerequisite to credentials renewal. If credentialed ministers who are working and residing outside the United States fail to contact the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director prior to credentials renewal, and are unknown to Assemblies of God World Missions leadership, their credential will not be renewed.

## Section 9. Transfer of Credentials

**a. Certificate of transfer.** When a member minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within 60 days by the district of which he or she is a member, unless there are charges pending against the minister. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which the minister moves. Exceptions may be made for the following:

- (1) Ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God National Leadership and Resource Center.
- (2) Those who have attained the age of 60 and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of 65 and are not pastoring a church.
- (3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty.
- (4) Those who are serving on the staffs of schools affiliated with the General Council and district council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the district council in which the school is located.
- (5) Those who are appointed U.S. missionaries or world missionaries who are on furlough or on temporary assignment in the United States and reside in a district other than their home district.
- (6) Ministers having membership in one district and a mailing address only in another district.
- (7) Students in schools outside their home districts.
- (8) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:
  - (a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries.
  - (b) Both districts agree to the exception.
  - (c) The institution is acceptable to both districts.
- (9) Church planters involved in transdistrict ministry.

**b. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship.** A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:



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(1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.

(2) A course on history and polity of U.S. church.

(3) A completed ministerial application.

**c. Transcript.** In order to assist a member minister who is transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning the minister and his or her spouse should accompany the certificate of transfer.

**d. Transfers between language/ethnic districts and geographical districts.** Credential holders from language/ethnic districts may transfer to geographical districts and credential holders from geographical districts may transfer to language/ethnic districts.

### Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements

#### **a. Terminology**

(1) *Renewed.* The term *renewed* shall apply to all ministers who have met the annual deadline for renewal including those who are delinquent but who renew by January 15.

(2) *Reinstated.* The term *reinstated* shall apply to the persons whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list, who upon application are approved for restoration of credentials.

**b. Expiration date.** All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify their district office.

**c. Grace period until January 15.** All who have not renewed their fellowship certificates postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$50 up until January 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council.

**d. Reinstatement of lapsed minister.** Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a nonrefundable fee of \$100, to be divided equally between the district and the General Council. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

**e. Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister.** When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$100 to be divided between the district and the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

The district of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the district that processed the termination and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward

the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

**f. Support of the National Leadership and Resource Center.** The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute \$25 per month (\$300 per year) from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$20 per month (\$240 per year) from their tithes or as an offering; and certified ministers should contribute \$10 per month (\$120 per year) from their tithes or as an offering. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

## **Section 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations**

### **a. On the initiative of the minister.**

(1) *Lapsed.* Ministers who do not renew their credentials shall be listed as lapsed, provided there is no cause for disciplinary action. Their names shall be published as lapsed in the *Assemblies of God Ministers Letter*, hereinafter referred to as the ministers letter.

(2) *Resigned.* Ministers who elect to remove themselves from the Fellowship shall submit a letter of resignation to the district with which they are affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, their resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the district council and General Council credentials committees. Their termination shall be listed in the ministers letter as resigned.

### **b. On the initiative of the district. (See Article X, Section 4.)**

(1) *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for 2 consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, his or her name shall be published as inactive in the ministers letter.

(2) *Not renewed.* If in the opinion of the credentials committees a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, the minister's name shall be published as not renewed in the ministers letter.

**c. As a result of affiliation with another church organization.** In the event a minister shall identify with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be terminated. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

**d. Surrender of credentials.** In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, Ministry License, Certificate of Ministry) and current fellowship card to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his

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or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

### **Section 12. Ministerial Status Changes**

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately to his or her district office, which in turn is to report this information to the office of the general secretary of the General Council, on the Ministerial Status Report form provided by that office.

### **Section 13. Transfer of Information**

The general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and any district officer, may share information in a minister's file that pertains to the minister's fitness for ministry with any other district officer. The term "minister's file" includes files maintained for both credentialed ministers and applicants for ministerial credentials. This provision shall also apply to designees of the general secretary or district officer.

### **Section 14. Privileged Communications**

Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant, to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.

### **Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials**

**a. Continuing education encouraged.** Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.

**b. Using adequately accredited institutions.** Because of the many questionable institutions offering unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since the General Council, our General Council schools, and our regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, we strongly encourage our ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by our own regionally and nationally accredited schools, and to consult the district council or General Council offices if they have questions in these matters.

## **ARTICLE VIII. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

### **Section 1. Christian Marriage**

Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21–25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4–6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God

(Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23–33).

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see Article IX, B, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Ephesians 5:21) and find nurture and instruction in the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessing of God in their relationship.

## **Section 2. Children**

Children “are a heritage from the Lord”; therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God’s strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

# **ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

## **A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY**

**a. Authorization and purpose.** A Commission on Doctrinal Purity shall be established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings. The commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery.

**b. Appointments and terms of office.** The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of 10 members representing, insofar as possible, the area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be for 4 years.

**c. Vacancies and terminations.** The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such action advisable. A decision to declare a vacancy and to fill such vacancy may be made at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery.

## **B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

### **Section 1. Unconditional Security**

In view of the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible’s call to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

## Section 2. Legalism

a. **Matters of conscience.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1–4).

b. **Adding conditions to salvation.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1–5).

## Section 3. Eschatological Errors

a. **The restitution of all things.** The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. **Setting a date for the Lord's return.** It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37–40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. **Post-Tribulation Rapture.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

d. **Amillennialism.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. **Credentials jeopardized if made an issue.** We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34–36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4–10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

## Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel

(Luke 9:62); and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8,9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24–26).

## Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

### a. Membership

(1) *Marriage entanglements before conversion.* There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17,20,24).

(2) *Common-law marriages.* We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

**b. Remarriage.** Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

### c. Local church leadership

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5–9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15).

(2) *Prerogative of local assemblies.* It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

**d. Performing marriage ceremonies**

(1) *Ministerial guidelines.* We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

(2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

(3) *Same-sex ceremonies.* No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9–11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

**e. Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

**Section 6. Worldliness**

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. . . . For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5–8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8–10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15–17; Titus 2:12).

## Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

### a. Tithing

(1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

(2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his or her support.

### b. Solicitation of funds

(1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

(2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the district must have authorization of the district officers.

Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missions character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

(3) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

**c. Private ownership of religious institutions.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the district council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation.



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A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

### **Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesies**

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

### **Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God Church**

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

### **Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

### **Section 11. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such

interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

## **Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

## **Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution**

**a. Attribution.** In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

(1) *Attribution by ministers.* Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(2) *Attribution by the General Council.* No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(3) *Attribution by local churches.* We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on).

(4) *Attribution accepted.* All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to August 2007, from any institution whatsoever shall be fully accepted and grandfathered in.

**b. Intentional failure to comply.** Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices.

# **ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE**

## **Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline**

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry

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may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration (Galatians 6:1).

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

### **Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees**

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all certified, licensed, and ordained ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of restoration are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

### **Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action**

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.
- c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- f. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- h. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- j. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.
- k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- l. Violations of ministerial courtesies. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8.)
- m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

Notwithstanding the above, when more than 7 years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than restorative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

## Section 4. Right of Initiative

a. **Authority.** Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the leaders, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.

b. **Prior right of district.** The officers of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

c. **Responsibility of district of affiliation.** If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the General Council Credentials Committee shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

d. **Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee.** In the event a district fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

## Section 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confessions of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

a. **Within the districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.** Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(1) *Interview with complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

(3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(4) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in 3-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

**b. Outside United States.** In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the district of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the district of the minister's affiliation. Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

(1) *Report to district of affiliation.* At the earliest date after Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(2) *Confidential file.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved and shall be presented to the district superintendent for use in any action the district may take.

(3) *Additional information.* When in the judgment of Assemblies of God World Missions or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

## **Section 6. Preparation and Filing of Charges**

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, the district officers making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail, at the last address furnished to the district, of the charges made in keeping with Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

## **Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline**

**a. District hearing.** In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

**b. Forfeiture of rights of accused.** A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

**c. Discipline**

(1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(2) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the credentials committees to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit restoration or dismissal. The credentials committees shall weigh decisions on: (a) the basis of the offense itself, (b) the manner and thoroughness of repentance, (c) the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, and (d) the willingness manifested to cooperate.

(3) *Administering discipline redemptively.* If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws, Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

**d. Surrender of credentials.** Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current fellowship card to the district office. In the event of restoration the credentials shall be held in the district office. In the event of dismissal the district shall forward the credentials to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

## Section 8. Restoration

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of restoration, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for restoration shall apply.

**a. Basis.** Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of restoration as an alternative to dismissal. Restoration is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family, with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the district and General Council credentials committees.

**b. Procedure and requirements.** The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements for restoration for the individual minister.

(1) *Restoration requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the restoration program as recommended by the district credentials committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of restoration.

(b) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for restoration shall continue for not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of restoration. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of restoration.

(e) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(f) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(g) *Supervision.* In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

(h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(i) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of restoration the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) *Program administration.* The approved restoration program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) *District progress reports.* The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the restoration of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of restoration.* When the restoration program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *Transfer of information.* A restoration information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the restoration occurred when the restored minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed restoration form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a restoration program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her restoration program to be disclosed by the district superintendent or district secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district in which the restoration occurred and the General Council.

**c. Eligibility of previously dismissed.** In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the district shall first obtain permission from the General

Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate restoration program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for restoration have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such restoration.

## **Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee**

### **a. District recommendation**

(1) *Restoration.* When a minister is to be placed in a restoration program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of restoration. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that restoration is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(3) *Subsequent dismissal.* Should evidence come to light following a minister's resignation, or the lapse of his or her credentials, of conduct occurring prior to his or her resignation or lapse of credentials that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under Article X, Section 3, of these Bylaws, the district at its discretion may request the General Council Credentials Committee to change that minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

(4) *Credential absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial restoration followed by faithful service for many years, it may request the General Council Credentials Committee to lift a dismissal and clear the minister's name by changing his or her credential status from dismissed to resigned.

**b. General Council Credentials Committee action.** The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the district and shall concur if in its judgment the district was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

**c. General Council to hold information.** All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.

**d. Final disposition.** The general secretary shall notify the minister and the district(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.



## Section 10. Right of Appeal

**a. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee.** The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee's decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved.

**b. Consideration of appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee.** The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:

(1) *Remanding of case to the district.* If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the district presbytery for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

(a) *Forfeiture of right of appeal.* No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the district presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the district hearing (see Section 5, 6, & 7 of this Article).

(b) *Insufficient grounds.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal, and remand the case to the district.

**c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery.**

(1) A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee's decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and must include new exculpatory information, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

(2) A district may appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

## Section 11. Publication of Dismissal

No publication of a dismissed minister's name shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional 30 days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

## Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials

a. **Authorization.** Application for reinstatement may be made through the district council within which territory the applicant resides. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made.

b. **Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers.** The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

c. **Restoration obligatory.** When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for restoration outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

d. **Option to refer to General Presbytery.** The General Council Credentials Committee may also hold the reinstatement of a minister's credentials in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

e. **Reinstatement fee.** When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a \$100 reinstatement fee with the application to be divided equally between the district council and the General Council.

## Section 13. Notice

Notice shall be deemed to have been given to a minister by certified mail from the district or General Council Credentials Committee on the basis of the last address furnished to the district or General Council by the minister. In the event the certified letter is returned as undeliverable for any reason, notice will have been deemed to have been given in view of the fact it is the minister's responsibility to furnish the district or General Council his or her address, and to accept lawful mail.

## Section 14. Legal Representation

The discipline of ministers is a sacred responsibility that is entrusted to the credentials committees of districts and the General Council. A minister shall not be permitted to be accompanied by one or more attorneys at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline. A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.

# ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

In addition to the divisions provided for in Article XIII. Assemblies of God World Missions; and Article XIV. Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the Board of Directors of The

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General Council of the Assemblies of God shall establish such national ministries, including commissions, divisions, and departments as may from time-to-time be needed to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

The organization and establishment of these ministries shall be provided for in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. (See Bylaws, Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.)

### **ARTICLE XII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, divisions, departments, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as from time-to-time may be established to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

*The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team as approved by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery for approval all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be available to all General Council affiliated churches and ordained or licensed ministers.

### **ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS**

#### **Section 1. Authorization and Purpose**

**a. Authorization.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the gospel in foreign lands. In keeping with this objective, there shall be an Assemblies of God World Missions to which shall be committed all the world missions interests of the Fellowship.

**b. Purpose.** The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its fourfold mission.

**c. Strategy.** The missions strategy of the division shall be:

- (1) The widest possible evangelization of the spiritually lost through every available means;
- (2) The establishment of indigenous churches after the New Testament pattern;
- (3) The training of national believers to proclaim the gospel to their own people in an expanding mission to other people; and
- (4) The showing of compassion for suffering people in a manner representing the love of Jesus Christ.

**d. Indigenous principle.** The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the gospel has not been preached and by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating national churches in all regions.

## Section 2. Organization and Governance

**a. Executive director.** There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

**b. Administrator.** The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

**c. Departments.** The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

**d. Amenability.** The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the general superintendent, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery.

### **e. World Missions Board**

(1) *Composition.* The activities of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be under the supervision of the World Missions Board which shall consist of the executive director of the division; the general superintendent (ex officio); two executive presbyters; the administrator; the regional directors; eight pastors of proven world missions zeal and accomplishments, each from a different area of the nation; and eight laypersons, endorsed by their pastors, each from a different area of the nation and from churches other than those whose pastors serve concurrently on the World Missions Board.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the World Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(3) *Term of office.* The term of office of the appointed pastors and laypersons shall be for 4 years, rotated so some of the members will be elected each year to maintain continuity. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

(4) *Authority and amenability.* The responsibilities of the World Missions Board shall be to establish and evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, to establish and uphold standards for appointed world missionaries and world missions candidates for world missions appointment. The decisions of the board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(5) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the World Missions Board who are not members of the World Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the World Missions Committee may present the case for Assemblies of God World Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or World Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

(6) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the World Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

**f. Regional directors.** There shall be regional directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical regions. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 4-year term on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

**g. Creation of new region.** With the creation of a new region, the World Missions Board shall have the discretion of nominating a regional director, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. The normal cycle of missionary endorsement will follow.

**h. Area directors.** There shall be area directors who shall serve under the regional directors, directing and coordinating missions activities in their assigned areas. They shall be appointed by the World Missions Board on the basis of nominations by the World Missions Committee and regional director in their respective areas.

**i. World Missions Committee.** The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a World Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the regional directors, the leaders of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of the World Missions Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the World Missions Board.

**j. General Presbytery representatives.** Each of the regions shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others. International Ministries shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its director and two others. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).]

**k. World missions policies.** All appointed world missionaries shall be required to work in accord with the published policies of the division as authorized by the World Missions Board.

### **Section 3. Support of Assemblies of God World Missions**

The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of Assemblies of God World Missions and its missionaries shall be provided from:

- a. Offerings designated for office expense.
- b. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the division.
- c. Undesignated funds.
- d. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency Fund.

### **Section 4. Missionary Candidates**

**a. Appointment.** The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the World Missions Board on recommendation of the World Missions Committee.

**b. Examination criteria.** The World Missions Board shall be governed in its selection and appointment of missionaries by examining each applicant as to:

- (1) Personal experience of full New Testament salvation.
- (2) Definite experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- (3) Definite call to missions work.
- (4) Physical, mental, and spiritual fitness to work.
- (5) Christian standing and general qualifications.

It is required that all applicants receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of their district councils, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character. Applicants shall not be granted general missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a qualifying period of service in the United States.

**c. Specialized service.** Candidates for world service of a specialized character, such as nurses and teachers, may be granted appointment for such types of work, if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

## Section 5. Support of Missionaries

**a. A faith mission.** The world missions program of the Assemblies of God is a faith mission. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

**b. Church support.** Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with Assemblies of God World Missions.

**c. Undesignated and general emergency funds.** Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

**d. District support.** It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable.

## Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

## Section 7. Credentialed Ministers Working and Residing outside the United States

Credentialed ministers working and residing outside the United States, not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions, are required to communicate their residency and ministry status to the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for the purpose of credentials renewal. Their credentialing district shall also instruct said minister to do so as a prerequisite to credentials renewal. If credentialed ministers who are

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working and residing outside the United States fail to contact the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director prior to credentials renewal, and are unknown to Assemblies of God World Missions leadership, their credential will not be renewed.

### Section 8. Field Organizations

**a. National church organization.** Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

**b. Missionary fellowships.** Missionary fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries assigned permanently to a region of Assemblies of God World Missions, may be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These missionary fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Assemblies of God World Missions since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to Assemblies of God World Missions in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields.

In those areas where there are insufficient personnel to make the organization of a missionary fellowship practical, Assemblies of God World Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and Assemblies of God World Missions in matters normally handled by the missionary fellowship.

### Section 9. Property

**a. Investment principles.** All possible precautions shall be taken to safeguard funds invested in foreign properties so that they shall continue to advance the cause of the Assemblies of God in those countries. No funds shall be made available for the purchase of property until arrangements have been made to comply with the laws of the respective countries concerning the legal holding of the title, and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missions projects and Assemblies of God World Missions, these principles shall be followed:

(1) *Title to missionary residences.* All missionary residences shall be held in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God wherever legally possible.

(2) *Title to institutional properties.*

(a) *General policy.* It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(b) *Exceptions.* Assemblies of God World Missions shall be authorized to transfer title to the local national Assemblies of God organization when it deems such action to be in the best interests of the work. Church buildings or pastors' residences that are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds shall be held in the name of its national Assemblies of God organization or by a local

church that is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(3) *Title policy on General Council loans.* In all cases where Assemblies of God World Missions has advanced funds on a loan basis, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall hold title to the property or receive other adequate security until the loan is fully paid.

**b. Missionary fellowship project endorsement.** Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings shall cooperate with the missionary fellowship on the field and must secure its endorsement before requesting the approval of the division.

**c. Legal documents.** A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all missions properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to Assemblies of God World Missions for filing.

## ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS

### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

**a. Authorization.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power to spread the gospel to the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be an Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

**b. Purpose.** The primary responsibility of this division shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its mission. The essential functions are promoting the establishing of indigenous churches and facilitating the evangelization and discipleship of individuals within the scope of U.S. Missions. All such activities shall be conducted in full cooperation with the district councils. The division shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and shall receive and disburse funds.

### Section 2. Organization and Governance

**a. Executive director.** There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

**b. Administrator.** There shall be an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

**c. Departments.** The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* and *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These departments shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) *Chaplaincy Ministries* endorses professionally trained clergy to provide pastoral care to people in specialized settings.

(2) *Chi Alpha Campus Ministries* provides campus ministry to evangelize and disciple American and international college and university students.

(3) *Missionary Church Planters and Developers* provides ministry to facilitate and support the development, planting, and multiplication of missional churches.



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(4) *Intercultural Ministries* provides ministry to distinct people groups in the United States who require specialized understanding.

(5) *Mission America Placement Service* provides ministry to enlist, facilitate, and place volunteers in distinct areas of Christian service.

(6) *Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.* provides ministry to people of all ages with addictive behaviors.

**d. Amenability.** The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the general superintendent, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery.

**e. U.S. Missions Board.** The work of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be under the advisement of a U.S. Missions Board.

**f. U.S. Missions Executive Committee.** The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. Missions Executive Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the directors of the major departments of the division, and other resource persons as determined by the executive director and approved by the Executive Leadership Team. The responsibilities of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries.

**g. Commission on Chaplains**

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the department director of Chaplaincy Ministries, two executive presbyters, two Military/Veterans Affairs chaplains, two Institutional/Occupational chaplains, two members at large, legal counsel, and others at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team. The commission shall serve as the endorsing agency for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Members of the commission and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Authority and amenability.* The government and work of Chaplaincy Ministries shall be vested in and committed to the Commission on Chaplains. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It shall have the responsibility to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the area of its supervision, to establish criteria for the appointment of workers in the Military/Veterans Affairs, Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

**h. National U.S. missionaries.** National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee with the approval of their home districts and the districts in which the missionaries will be working. All missionary appointments and renewals shall be made according to administrative criteria established by Assemblies of God U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.

**i. Liaison with districts.** The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in

each area may be refined and offered to districts. The work of the departments within U.S. Missions is transdistrict. U.S. missionaries work in cooperation with both U.S. Missions and their assigned district(s) to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Assemblies of God. U.S. missionaries shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the respective district(s). The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared by the district(s) and U.S. Missions.

### **Section 3. Support**

Financial assistance in meeting the operating expenses of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be provided from:

- a. Offerings.
- b. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.
- c. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment designated to their respective departments.
- d. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to Chaplaincy Ministries.
- e. **Chi Alpha Campus Ministries**  
All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute five percent of all group revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.
- f. **Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.**  
All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute a monthly accreditation fee determined by the Teen Challenge U.S.A. board of directors.

## **ARTICLE XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

### **Section 1. Authorization**

The Executive Presbytery may from time-to-time establish certain Assemblies of God corporations, which entities are separately legally incorporated for governance purposes from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, but whose boards of directors are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. All such corporations shall be submitted to the General Council for approval.

### **Section 2. Board of Directors**

The oversight of policy and administration of each of the corporations shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of the corporation's articles and bylaws. The articles and bylaws of each corporation and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

### **Section 3. Amenability**

Each corporation and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

## **Section 4. Fiscal Affairs**

The books of each corporation shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit report to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

## **Section 5. Recognized Corporations**

The following entities shall constitute the recognized corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God: Evangel University, Global University of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association. No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

# **ARTICLE XVI. AFFILIATED MINISTRIES**

## **Section 1. Authorization**

Ministries that represent a national or global ministry focus working with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its corporations but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be recognized by the Executive Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

## **Section 2. Board of Directors**

Each affiliated ministry shall have a board of directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The board of directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws, except that the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint one member of the board of directors.

## **Section 3. Governance**

Each affiliated ministry shall select and manage its own employees, maintain accounting records, hold title to property, obtain insurance, file tax returns, prepare financial statements, pay salaries and other expenses, raise funds, create and distribute promotional literature, provide charitable contribution receipts to donors, and in all other respects operate as an autonomous legal ministry except as noted in Section 4 through 6, below.

## **Section 4. Relationship**

Affiliated ministries shall enter into a covenant relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God under such terms and conditions as are established by the Executive Presbytery and approved by the General Presbytery.

The charter or bylaws of each affiliated ministry shall affirm acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, including the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Each affiliated ministry shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery with regard to doctrine and compliance

with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In all other respects an affiliated ministry shall be autonomous and self-governed.

### **Section 5. Name and Logo**

Affiliated ministries may refer to their status as an affiliated ministry with The General Council of the Assemblies of God but may not use the Assemblies of God name or logo or other indications or marks to convey in any way a formal legal relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its recognized corporations, unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 6. Dissolution**

The charter or bylaws of an affiliated ministry shall specify that in the event of dissolution its assets shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God or any Assemblies of God church, district council, or corporation.

## **ARTICLE XVII. MILITARY SERVICE**

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose whether to declare their position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OPERATIONS MANUAL**

The office of the general superintendent shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These documents shall set forth the procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation of divisions, departments, commissions, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as outlined in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.

*The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team and shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery. An updated copy will be made available to the General Presbytery at its annual meeting. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* shall be available upon request to all General Council affiliated churches and licensed or ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## **ARTICLE XIX. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer

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4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

All business sessions of the General Council shall commence with prayer.

### **ARTICLE XX. QUORUM**

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of eleven executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members at any meeting of the Executive Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum.

### **ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.

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## Position Papers Adopted by the General Presbytery

All position papers adopted by the General Presbytery in session may be obtained from the General Council Web site at [www.ag.org](http://www.ag.org) under the *Beliefs* tab.



