

MINUTES

of the

58th Session of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened in Orlando, Florida

August 1–4, 2019

**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 the United States of America

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Douglas E. Clay, General Superintendent
Richard W. DuBose, Assistant General Superintendent
Donna L. Barrett, General Secretary
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus, General Treasurer
Gregory M. Mundis, Executive Director of AG World Missions
Malcolm P. Burleigh, Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Douglas E. Clay, chair

Melissa J. Alfaro	John E. Maracle
Donna L. Barrett	Don E. Miller
Malcolm P. Burleigh	Gregory M. Mundis
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesús	T. Ray Rachels
Daniel de León	D. Rick Ross
Richard W. DuBose	Bradley T. Trask
Duane P. Durst	Darnell Williams Sr.
A. Elizabeth Grant	William E. (Bill) Wilson
Samuel M. Huddleston	Terry L. Yancey
Robert Ketterling II	Vacant, Language Area—East Spanish

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FOREWORD

The 58th General Council convened in Orlando, Florida, August 1–4, 2019, with an attendance of over twenty-two thousand children, youth, and adults from around the nation. Unique to this General Council was a Commissioning Service for new Assemblies of God World Missions missionaries. This service included the largest constituency of missionaries attending from around the world for Together19, a conference following the General Council, sponsored by Assemblies of God World Missions.

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay opened the General Council on Thursday evening, preaching on “Celebrating the Call of God.” The Influence Conference took place earlier in the week to equip and train ministers. Under the theme, *Our Church, Our Family*, the following goals were accomplished: (1) *Spiritual Renewal* through powerful and anointed services; (2) *Community Building* through times of rich fellowship and intentional social opportunities; (3) *Leader Development* with insightful teaching and training in the Influence Conference; and (4) *Business Engagement* through discussion, debate, and action surrounding crucial matters facing our church and family in our business sessions.

In the business sessions, L. Alton Garrison finished his term as assistant general superintendent and chose not to let his name stand for reelection. Richard W. DuBose was elected as assistant general superintendent, creating a vacancy in the office of general treasurer. Rodney K. Loy was elected to the position of general treasurer, but submitted his resignation following the adjournment of the General Council business session. Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus was appointed by the Executive Presbytery to complete the term of general treasurer. Donna L. Barrett was elected as general secretary, after having been appointed by the Executive Presbytery in June 2018 to fulfill the unexpired term of James T. Bradford, who retired from the General Council to assume a pastorate. Gregory M. Mundis was reelected as executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

During the 2017–2018 biennium, the United States Assemblies of God grew to a record number of credential holders (38,199). The biennium also ended with 3,233,385 adherents in 13,017 churches. Going forward, we pray for a healthy church in every community marked by biblical engagement, Spirit empowerment, and missions involvement.

Our next General Council is scheduled for August 4–6, 2021, in Orlando, Florida.

May we continue to function as *Our Church, Our Family*, working together to build Christ's kingdom.

Donna L. Barrett
General Secretary

MINUTES OF THE 58th GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA AUGUST 1–4, 2019

The General Council Influence Conference convened on Wednesday and Thursday, July 31–August 1. Speakers for this conference included John E. Lindell, Robert Madu, Jeremy DeWeerd, Bobby Gruenewald, and Albert Toledo. Special music was provided by Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to David L. and A. Elizabeth Grant, missionaries with Assemblies of God World Missions. A Young Influencer Award was presented to Amy Farley, missionary with Assemblies of God World Missions and the senior pastor of an international church.

THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 1, 2019

The 58th General Council began with a 7:00 p.m. service at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, with Douglas E. Clay, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

The service began with worship led by Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota. Julius G. (Jay) Mooney Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God COMPACT Family Services, received the offering for Tana Brashears, a former foster child and single mother, who received a fourteen thousand dollar check to pay for her car loan and taxes. The offertory was provided by the River Valley Worship Team.

Gail Clay, wife of General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay, introduced her husband, who brought the keynote message for the 58th General Council and spoke about “Celebrating the Call of God.” He stressed that “the Calling” is not a job, but it is God’s intention for our lives. His text was from John 15:16. He referenced there being cycles to God’s call. It begins with the revelation, followed by hesitation—questioning the divinity of the call. Next is the motivation—putting yourself in a position to prepare, then initiation—stepping out, next rationalization—was God really speaking, and then temptation—did God know what He was doing when He placed one in those divine appointments? Douglas E. Clay pointed out the final step of the cycle is taken from 1 Corinthians 7:17—where one is right now is God’s place for the individual. He urged the body to let the Holy Spirit renew the joy of their calling and be content in the ministry by using their vertical and horizontal relationships.

General Superintendent Clay stressed that being Assemblies of God means there should be a clear identity of biblical engagement, Spirit empowerment, and missions participation. The Assemblies of God should be known as the church that believes in the power and inspiration of Scripture, to be known as the church that simultaneously believes

and practices the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit. He stated that “the Calling” is all about serving people, and he encouraged the audience to speak to God about people and to fall in love with the people God has called them to lead. He called for leaders to celebrate the people they are called to serve. He concluded his message with an altar call for those who desired to be filled with joy. There was an extended altar time in seeking God for joy and enthusiasm.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 2, 2019

Welcome and Prayer

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the 58th General Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. He explained the process for making amendments from the floor and how best to conduct business for this body. He asked for the engagement in business to always have decorum for a Christian business meeting, and above all, he stressed that this body should walk in unity after a decision is made. This is a Christian business meeting, and the most active member should be the person of the Holy Spirit.

The general superintendent called for a time of prayer and asked everyone to call on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide in all business conducted. Following a time of joint prayer, he asked the body to get in groups of two or three to pray together for the work of God to be accomplished in this business session. Nathan L. Sheridan, lead pastor of First Assembly of God in Garden City, Kansas, offered a prayer of blessing for the Lord to be upon this business session and for God’s purposes to be accomplished.

Business Session

The general superintendent, chair of the meeting, called the business session to order at 8:39 a.m.

Introduction of Legal Counselor

The chair introduced Richard R. Hammar, legal counsel for The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and a Registered Parliamentarian (RP) who serves as lead parliamentarian.

A motion was moved and seconded to grant approval for the General Council legal counsel/auditor/parliamentarian to address this body at the call of the chairman or at the request of the body. The motion was carried.

Business Agenda

The chair called attention to the business agenda contained in the *Voter Guide*. A motion was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as a guide. The motion was carried.

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Report of the General Superintendent

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay offered the report of the general superintendent and stated that we are people of the Spirit, dedicated to discipleship and compassion. He told of the Vision, Mission, Values, and Priority document that was developed with a prayerful and deliberative process to guide the national office after he came into office. Our vision is to see a Spirit-empowered church that is marked by spiritual and numerical growth in every community in the United States; our mission is to exist to resource and serve districts, churches, networks, ministers, and missionaries; our values are relationships, communication, excellence, serving, relevance, diversity, and stewardship; and our priorities are Bible engagement, church planting, church recalibration, church resourcing, perpetuating Pentecost, growing missions, and stewarding credentials.

A motion was moved and seconded to accept the report of the general superintendent and to express appreciation to Douglas E. Clay. The motion was carried.

Douglas E. Clay resumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Report of the Assistant General Superintendent

L. Alton Garrison presented the report of the assistant general superintendent and referenced his written report that is available online. He shared some personal remarks and told of his responsibilities in overseeing Church Ministries. He expressed his gratitude to the General Council and to the leadership of the General Council, both past and present. He told that he is wanting to transition from one ministry to another. He told of his discussions with the general superintendent and his desire to advance the Acts 2 Journey Initiative in a full-time capacity. He announced that he will not allow his name to stand for the position of assistant general superintendent. He expressed his and Johanna's love and appreciation to this body and to the General Council. He believes the greatest days are ahead for the Assemblies of God. The body responded with an applause of appreciation.

The general superintendent announced that L. Alton Garrison will begin working with the Acts 2 Journey Initiative and working with the general superintendent on some significant items.

Roster Report

Steven L. Powell, co-chair of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 9:15 a.m. on Friday morning, August 2, 2019, and moved its adoption:

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

VOTING:

Ordained	2,953	
Licensed	812	
Delegates	370	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	268	
	Voting Constituency	4,423

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,298	
Auxiliary Staff	35	
Certified	191	
General Attendees	2,929	
Guests	94	
Other	516	
Staff	160	
Camp GC19	46	
Fine Arts/AIM/Youth	12,025	
	Nonvoting Constituency	17,294

TOTAL REGISTRATION **21,717**

The chair accepted the roster report.

Resolution 16. Role of the Assistant General Superintendent Redefined as a Nonresident Executive Officer

The general superintendent explained the process of the General Presbytery, the National Leadership and Resource Center Structural Working Group that was appointed by the General Presbytery, and the committee that was appointed to present their findings to the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, and now it is before this body.

Doyle A. Fulkes, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 16 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

A motion was moved and seconded to amend page 17, lines 27–29, by removing the strikeout on the text “and assistant general superintendent” in two places, and to amend page 19, line 2, by striking the text “assistant general superintendent,” returning the document to its original text. The motion was carried.

The chair called for any discussion on the main motion as now amended.

Point of Order

It was requested that better clarity be given as to why this recommendation is being made by the General Presbytery. Duane P. Durst, chair of the Committee to Study the Office of the Assistant General Superintendent, spoke to the question and explained the

thought was this recommendation will allow there to be a grassroots representative, a nonresident member, to serve on the Executive Leadership Team to bring an additional perspective to the Fellowship. He stated there is no defined job description for the position of assistant general superintendent so those responsibilities presently done by a resident assistant general superintendent will be distributed among those who are staff at the national office.

A motion was moved to call for the vote of the original motion as amended. The chair called for the vote to cease discussion and vote on the original question as amended. The chair declared the motion was passed by two-thirds vote. The chair acknowledged the request for the vote to be taken by secret ballot.

Electronic Voting Instructions and Registration

The general superintendent introduced Mark D. Christianson, General Council Information Technology, who 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 the voting devices. Instructions were given to vote the number one (1) if voting *for* the resolution and press the number two (2) if voting *against* the resolution.

The chair called for the secret ballot vote on the amended Resolution 16. Role of the Assistant General Superintendent Redefined as Nonresident Executive Officer and declared the voting closed.

The chair presented the following results of the vote on Resolution 16:

Total Votes Cast	2,258
Votes Needed to Pass	1,130
Yes	957
No	1,301

The chair announced the motion was denied and the resolution was not passed. The amended Resolution 16 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery adopted the recommendations of the Structural Working Group during its August 5 & 7, 2017 meeting, which includes Item #4 recommending that, prior to a change in leadership for the position of assistant general superintendent, there be a thorough review of said position by a committee appointed by the general superintendent, to be comprised from the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The office of the assistant general superintendent is scheduled for election during the 2019 General Council; and

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

WHEREAS, L. Alton Garrison, our sitting assistant general superintendent has made known his intention to not seek reelection at the completion of his present term; and

WHEREAS, The creation of this impending vacancy for the seat of assistant general superintendent is the scenario that activates the recommendation of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Leadership Team and the entire Fellowship would be well-served by a nonresident executive officer; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 1. Officers, page 135, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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.

The office of assistant general superintendent shall be a nonresident position. The remaining officers of general superintendent, general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, shall be resident positions.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph a, page 135, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph b, pages 135-136, which reads:

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

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 10 percent of the votes cast by the General Presbytery. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 10 percent of the votes cast 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. 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.

Be amended to read:

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

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 10 percent of the votes cast by the General Presbytery. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 10 percent of the votes cast 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. 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.

Report of the General Secretary

Donna L. Barrett presented the general secretary’s report, referencing her written report that is available online. She reported a decline in Sunday evening services, conversions, and water baptisms; however, there has been an increase in the number of

total adherents, membership, Spirit baptisms, and worship service average attendance. She emphasized notable changes in the general secretary's office with one being the newly abbreviated Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR) form that has been welcomed by pastors and churches, and she told of a new online exams process for ministerial applicants with 35 districts now using this option for which a study guide resource has been prepared. She expressed her gratitude to James T. Bradford, former general secretary and her predecessor, who has mentored and trained her and has made this to be a very smooth transition. She also expressed her appreciation to her office team.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general secretary and express appreciation to Donna L. Barrett.

Report of the General Treasurer

Richard W. DuBose presented the report of the general treasurer, referencing his written report that may be read online. He highlighted the Finance report, and he stated the General Council has received a clean and unmodified opinion from the BKD audit firm. He told of an increase in net worth of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and celebrated the Central Bible College property having been sold to a Korean ministry, which reduces the outflow of funds for the expense of maintaining that property.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general treasurer and to accept the General Council Audit Report and express appreciation to Richard W. DuBose.

Welcome to George O. Wood

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay invited George O. Wood, former general superintendent, to address the body and asked the body to express their appreciation. The body responded with an applause of appreciation. George O. Wood told of the work he is currently involved in with the World Assemblies of God Fellowship. He reported there are now 166 members worldwide, and he has served in the capacity of chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship since 2007. He expressed his delight to invite the constituency to Madrid, Spain, in March 2020, for the World Assemblies of God Congress that is held every three years.

The general superintendent expressed his appreciation to both George O. Wood and Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendents.

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. He spoke about the suffering church, referencing 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV), "If one member suffers, all suffer together," and talked about Adoniram Judson, the first Protestant missionary from the United States. His son, Edward, said of him, "Success and suffering are vitally and organically linked. If you succeed without suffering, it is because someone suffered for you; if you suffer

without succeeding, it is in order that someone else may succeed after you.” Gregory M. Mundis expressed that missionaries are working to build the church of Jesus Christ around the world, and the churches of the Assemblies of God are persevering. He offered a prayer for the many international partners and missionaries who are facing persecution and suffering.

A motion prevailed to accept the report from Assemblies of God World Missions, and the body offered an expression of appreciation to Gregory M. Mundis.

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

Malcolm P. Burleigh, executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, presented the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions report. He offered a plea for missions, U.S. Missions, and called on the Fellowship to strengthen the home base, just as Ralph Riggs stated at the inception of the Assemblies of God, saying that Acts 1:8 provides the priority for the missions process. Malcolm P. Burleigh called for the girding up of our Jerusalem—U.S. Missions. If that is not done, it will diminish the impact on “Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.” He asked for churches and pastors to make Assemblies of God U.S. Missions a part of their budgets, going beyond sending teams out for a two- or three-week missions endeavor. His cry is that nothing takes the place of appointed workers staying full-time on the field, be it home or foreign.

A motion prevailed to accept the report from Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, and the body offered an expression of appreciation to Malcolm P. Burleigh.

Appreciation to Assemblies of God U.S. and World Missionaries

The general superintendent recognized all Assemblies of God U.S. and World Missions missionaries and asked them to stand. The body offered an extended applause of appreciation.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

The chair called for the election of the assistant general superintendent. The general secretary read Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of the assistant general superintendent. Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent, offered prayer for the election of the assistant general superintendent and for the Lord’s will to be accomplished. The chair called for the nominating ballot for the assistant general superintendent to be cast. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson, chair of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent, and reported that no person received a sufficient number of votes on the nominating ballot to be elected.

According to Bylaws, Article II, all persons receiving 15 or more votes shall be the nominees for the office of assistant general superintendent.

Total Votes Cast	1,950
Invalid Votes	23
Votes Needed to Elect	1,300

The following persons received 15 or more votes:

Melissa J. Alfaro	15
Donna L. Barrett	37
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	88
Richard W. DuBose	270
L. Alton Garrison	16
Saturnino Gonzalez	51
A. Elizabeth Grant	58
Thomas M. Jacobs	17
Robert Ketterling II	31
Mark A. Lehmann	23
John E. Lindell	62
Rodney K. Loy	158
Terrell R. Raburn	19
D. Rick Ross	35
Bradley T. Trask	45
Randy L. Valimont	60
Terry L. Yancey	22

Following is the list of all other nominees: Irineo Abad Santos Jr. 1, Daniel R. Abbatiello 1, Dennis L. Abbott 2, Karen E. Abbott 1, Becky R. Adams 1, Heath Adamson 7, Moses A. Aleman 1, Bret L. Allen 7, Ricardo C. Allen 1, Julie A. Allred 1, Manuel A. Alvarez 6, Randell G. Atkins 2, Donald A. Avila 1, Bethlehem Backes 1, Kathryn L. Banks 1, Tim R. Barker 3, Luke W. Barnett 1, Tommy J. Barnett 2, Westley R. Bartel 1, Bobby J. Basham 2, Mark A. Batterson 2, Christopher N. Beard 7, Dianne B. Beard 1, Francis H. Beardsley 1, Glenn R. Beaver 1, Jerry L. Beers 1, Gary M. Bell 1, J. Kermit Bell 4, Kyle M. Bethke 1, Dan C. Betzer 1, James D. Biffert 1, Timothy M. Black 2, M. Wayne Blackburn 7, Gary J. Blanchard 5, Richard P. Bloom 1, James W. Bobo Jr. 1, Christopher J. Boggs 1, Ronald J. Bontrager 1, Alma J. Boyd 1, David J. Boyd 1, James T. Bradford 12, James A. Bradford III 1, Robert A. Bradford 1, James R. Braddy 3, Renea C. A. Brathwaite 1, Dennis J. Breden 1, M. Ray Brewer 4, Kermit S. Bridges 3, Chad A. Brodrick 1, Fred L. Brooks 1, Jerry A. Brooks 5, Stephen S. Brown 1, Terry D. Brown 1, Warren D. Bullock 2, Larry S. Burgbacher 1, Malcolm P. Burleigh 3, Michael R. Burnette Jr. 2, J. Kenneth Burtram 5, Larry C. Burton 1, Jonathan K. Burtram 1, JoAnn E. Butrin 1, J. Ross Byars 2, Daniel N. Campbell 1, Joshua B. Canales 1, Eduardo Cantu 1, H. Franklin Cargill 11, Jon D. Catron 1, Vance A. Cauthon 3, Ted L. Cederblom 3, Alan Chouest 1, Todd W. Clair 1, Gaylan D. Claunch 7, Dennis E. Clanton 3, Kerry F. Clarensau 2, Michael H. Clarensau 3, Douglas E. Clay 2, Billy L. Cockrum 1, Aaron A. Cole 1, Dave E. Cole 4, Debra F. Cole 1, Carl J. Colletti 2, George D. Cope 2,

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Loyda E. Correa 1, David B. Crabtree 3, Jamel Crawford 1, Earl G. Creps III 1, Richard W. Crisco 1, Daniel De Jesus 1, Mark W. Dean 1, Jesse Deems Jr. 1, Steven R. DeFraim 2, David L. DeGarmo 1, Douglas K. DeMent 1, Donald H. Detrick 10, Carl Dicioccio 1, Micheal E. Dickenson 7, David W. Dillon 2, David A. Divine 3, Jon P. Dorsey 1, Troy S. Doudy 1, Kenneth W. Draughon 7, Derwood W. DuBose 1, Ryan W. DuBose 1, Mark A. Durene 1, Duane P. Durst 10, Juliana H. Durst 1, Christopher T. Duvall 1, Phil F. Edwards 2, Nathan L. Elarton 1, Ron L. Enget 1, Timothy N. Enloe 3, Mark A. Entzminger 6, B. P. (Dino) Espinoza Jr. 2, Charles A. Estridge 1, Nicholas W. Fatato 2, Robert K. Fairchild 1, James E. Filbeck 3, Mark D. Flattery 1, Grant R. Foster 1, Rodney G. Fouts 1, Shawn R. Franco 1, Nathan J. Gagne 2, Dana T. Galbraith 1, Jesse L. Galindo 2, Calixto Garcia 1, Douglas J. Garcia 1, Adelita Garza 2, Amos Garza 2, Eneedo Garza Jr. 1, Hilario Garza 2, J. Don George 1, Donald G. Gifford 1, Chad S. Gilligan 1, Kelly L. Ginder 1, Joseph S. Girdler 4, Ryan M. Goeden 1, Nelson R. Gonzalez 1, Saturnino Gonzalez 1, Saul D. Gonzalez 2, J. Clayton Good 1, Paul Marc Goulet 1, Douglas M. Graham 2, M. Jeffrey Gravis 2, Nicholas W. Gray 1, David M. Greco 1, Douglas E. Green 3, Joseph M. Green 2, Thomas W. Green 1, Larry H. Griswold 7, David P. Groff 2, Gary W. Grogan 2, Richard M. Guerra 14, Charles W. Gunnels 2, B. Dane Hall 1, Krista D. Hampton 1, Stephen L. Harris 2, J. Lowell Harrup 1, T. Samuel Hart Jr. 2, Jeffrey Hartensveld 1, Walter F. Harvey 10, Ronald L. Hawkins 2, Sharon L. Hawley 1, Ted R. Heaston 1, Jeremiah S. Hembree 2, Harvey A. Herman Jr. 2, Maricela H. Hernandez 2, Jay A. Herndon 10, David M. Hertweck 1, Kimberly A. Hinz 1, Aaron M. Hlavin 1, R. Jeffrey Hlavin 4, Gordon W. Houston 1, Gary B. Howell 1, Gary L. Hoyt 1, John A. Hubert 1, Randy Hurst 1, Samuel M. Huddleston 14, Donald A. James 6, R. Bryan Jarrett 5, E. H. Glen Jeffrey 1, Godfrey A. O. Johnson 1, John E. Johnson 9, Darius L. Johnston 5, Randall W. Jones 1, Robert S. Jones 1, Troy H. Jones 5, Augustin J. Jorquez 1, Jason M. Karamatsos 1, Paul S. Kazim 1, Thomas W. Keinath 2, G. Neil Kennedy 1, Curtis W. Kent 1, Gerritt W. Kenyon 1, Robin J. Kettering 6, Keith A. Kidwell 1, William N. Kirk 3, Alan E. Kirkpatrick 1, Byron D. Klaus 1, Klayton Ko 1, Bryan D. Koch 6, Justin P. Kochs 1, Anita L. Koeshall 1, Peter J. Kramer 3, H. Maurice Lednicki 1, Alexander F. Ledoux 1, Wayne H. Lee 1, Larry A. Liebe 1, Jonathan D. Lindell 5, John A. Loper Jr. 2, Charles R. Lormis 2, Michael A. Lugones 5, Christa J. Lund 1, Tony M. Luxem 1, Thomas J. Manning 1, John E. Maracle 1, James D. Marocco 1, Dennis W. Marquardt 1, Elly C. Marroquin 5, Crystal M. Martin 13, John C. Martin 1, Sergio A. Martinez 1, Michael H. Matheny 1, B. Randel McCarty 1, M. Cole McClenithan 1, Fred D. McDaniel 1, Paul R. McDonald 2, Caroline C. McDowell 1, Sullivan McGraw 1, David W. McLain 2, George R. McLean 1, Ronald F. McManus 6, Mark L. Merrill 8, Daniel J. Miller 1, Don E. Miller 11, Michael Modica 2, Julius G. (Jay) Mooney Jr. 2, Billy G. Moore 1, Thomas L. Moore 9, Thomas L. Moore 1, Randall J. Morocco 1, Ronnie S. Morris 1, Daniel I. Morrison 5, Jeremy M. Mount 1, Gregory M. Mundis 4, Garo J. Nargiz 1, Johnny Narvaez Jr. 1, Sergio Navarrete 5, Michael Nelson 3, J. Bret Nettles 1, E. Don Nordin Jr. 2, Kellie K. Norris 1, Kristin R. Northup 2, Waverly Nunnally Jr. 1, Shelton D. Osbon Sr. 1, David B. Pafford 2, James A. Palmer 2, Kert G. Parsley 1, Rick D. Pasquale 2, Michael A. Patz 1, Adam K. Pelfrey 1, Anibal A. Pena 1, Jeffrey T. Peterson 2, Wallace C. Phillips 1, Steven M. Pike 1, Gary I. Pilcher 3, Efrain E. Pineda Jr. 2, Jeffrey S. Pippin 1, Richard A. Plunk 1, Darin S. Poe 1, Darin F. Poli 4, Jose Portillo 1, Franklin H. Potter 1, Stephen C. Potutchnig 1, Steven L. Powell 4, Stephen J. Pulis 2, Andrew J. Raatz 2, T. Ray Rachels 6, George W. Raduano 1, Christopher J. Railey 8, Thomas W. Rakoczy 1, S. Samuel Ramphal 3, Thomas E. Rees 1, Frank E. Reitzel Jr. 1, Daniel J. Remus 1, Carol Renfroe 1, Rafael Reyes 3, H. Robert Rhoden 1, Robert J. Rhoden 1,

Roy R. Rhodes 1, Samuel Rijfkogel 1, Michael D. Rippy 1, Dennis J. Rivera 10, Eleazar Rodriguez Jr. 2, Jaime Rodriguez 1, Samuel Rodriguez 1, Samuel Rodriguez Jr. 9, Randall S. Rogers 1, Gene M. Roncone II 1, Phillip F. Roop 1, Donald E. Ross 14, Priscilla L. Ross 1, Randal L. Ross 5, Stanley E. Russell 2, Edward J. Russo 4, Randy A. Sabella 1, David W. Savage 1, Stephen R. Schaible 3, Timothy P. Schmidt 3, Phillip B. Schneider 9, Michael D. Sharp 1, Mary V. Shaw 1, Michael O. Shields 1, David Silva Jr. 1, David T. Simerson 2, Zollie L. Smith Jr. 2, Ernest L. Spears 1, Clarence W. St. John 3, Jason D. St. John 3, Donald H. Steiger 1, Carl Stephens 1, Jason P. Stidham 5, Jeul Strickland 1, Darin L. Stroud 2, Daniel V. Stump 2, Jonathan N. Susa 3, Kevin S. Taylor 1, Sarah K. Taylor 1, Daniel Isaac Tellez 1, Martha L. Tennison 1, Stanley J. Tharp 1, Billy D. Thomas Sr. 7, Mark J. Thompson 1, Albert Toledo 1, Jason A. Tourville 1, Stephen R. Tourville 3, Thomas E. Trask 4, Eric A. Treuil 8, Donald K. Triplett 1, Steven C. Tvedt 1, Jerry R. Underwood 1, Gary W. Van Gorp 1, Gerald W. Van Horn 1, W. Randy Visconti 1, Richard L. Wadholm Jr. 2, J. Chris Walstad 3, Cheri L. Walters 1, Alan E. Warneke 2, Bryan W. Webb 1, Donald E. Webb 1, Janelle E. Webster 1, Roy (Bill) Welch 5, Stanley L. Welch 3, James E. Wellborn Jr. 2, George Westlake III 5, George W. Westlake Jr. 1, Paul W. Wetzel 1, Bradford D. Whipple 1, William Whitmire Jr. 1, Robert B. Wilburn 1, David M. Wington 4, Gary D. Wileman 4, Richard P. Wilkerson 1, Darnell Williams Sr. 5, John D. Williamson 1, R. Shane Wilson 1, Robert A. Wine 1, William E. Wilson 13, Wyndell Scott Wilson 2, Robert Wise Jr. 4, Terry Wong 1, George O. Wood 6, George Paul Wood 2, Galen M. Woodward 2, Darryl E. Wootton 6, John R. Wootton 11, Donald K. Yoshida Jr. 1, Peter Young 2, Ronald E. Young 1, Scott Young 5

Point of Order

A delegate asked for someone to read from the General Council Bylaws the provision for this position being a full-time office. The Parliamentary Committee indicated that the General Council Constitution and Bylaws do not explicitly state the position must be full-time, but it is implied by virtue of the fact that some members of the Executive Presbytery are deemed to be nonresident presbyters, and it has been our tradition for many, many years, and established custom, and that holds legal significance.

A question arose as to the anonymity of the Voter Identification system. Mark D. Christianson responded that the system records only the assigned voter identification number, and there is no data held by the company that ties the minister's number to the voter identification number. He assured the delegates that the voting system is anonymous and confidential.

The following individuals respectfully requested to withdraw from the nomination for the assistant general superintendent:

Melissa J. Alfaro
 Donna L. Barrett
 L. Alton Garrison
 Saturnino Gonzalez
 Terrell R. Raburn

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Someone indicated they had received word from John E. Lindell to request his name be withdrawn; although, he was not present in the meeting. The chair indicated it is not permissible for another to withdraw a name but stated the body hears the sentiment.

Since there was no election, the chair requested for the first electoral ballot to be taken. Instructions were reviewed for the electronic voting procedure. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Total Votes Cast	1,940
Invalid Votes	60
Votes Needed to Elect	1,294
Wilfredo De Jesus	282
Richard W. DuBose	535
A. Elizabeth Grant	253
Robert Ketterling II	89
Thomas M. Jacobs	24
Mark A. Lehmann	52
John E. Lindell	22
Rodney K. Loy	317
D. Rick Ross	83
Bradley T. Trask	95
Randy L. Valimont	82
Terry L. Yancey	46

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent and declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Total Votes Cast	1,941
Invalid Votes	46
Votes Needed to Elect	1,294
Wilfredo De Jesus	287
Richard W. DuBose	774
A. Elizabeth Grant	281
Robert Ketterling II	44
Thomas M. Jacobs	12
Mark A. Lehmann	15
John E. Lindell	4
Rodney K. Loy	373
D. Rick Ross	40
Bradley T. Trask	39

Randy L. Valimont	14
Terry L. Yancey	12

Since there was no election, the chair called for the third elective ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent and declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the third elective ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Total Votes Cast	1,908
Invalid Votes	28
Votes Needed to Elect	1,274
Wilfredo De Jesus	237
Richard W. DuBose	1,048
A. Elizabeth Grant	224
Robert Ketterling II	16
Thomas M. Jacobs	3
Mark A. Lehmann	6
John E. Lindell	1
Rodney K. Loy	321
D. Rick Ross	12
Bradley T. Trask	7
Randy L. Valimont	4
Terry L. Yancey	1

Since there was no election on the third elective ballot, according to the Bylaws, Article II, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and other names shall be eliminated. The chair called for the fourth elective ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent and declared the voting closed.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 11:50 a.m. for lunch. The chair indicated the results of the ballot would be received following lunch and announced that the afternoon business session would reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 2, 2019

The general superintendent opened the Friday afternoon business session at 2:00 p.m.

Roster Report

Ramon J. Rojas, co-chair of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 1:33 p.m. on Friday, August 2, 2019, and moved its adoption:

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VOTING:

Ordained	2,974
Licensed	816
Delegates	371
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	268
Voting Constituency	4,449

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,302
Auxiliary Staff	35
Certified	193
General Attendees	2,949
Guests	98
Other	544
Staff	160
Camp GC19	48
Fine Arts/AIM/Youth	12,139
Nonvoting Constituency	17,468

TOTAL REGISTRATION **21,917**

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent cont.

Micheal E. Dickenson, chair of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the fourth elective ballot for the office of the assistant general superintendent:

Total Votes Cast	1,810
Invalid Votes	25
Votes Needed to Elect	1,207
Wilfredo De Jesus	237
Richard W. DuBose	1,266
Rodney K. Loy	282

Having noted that Richard W. DuBose received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared Richard W. DuBose to be elected to the position of assistant general superintendent for a four-year term to expire in 2023.

The chair explained the process of the General Presbytery needing to caucus at the conclusion of this afternoon session in order to provide the nomination for the position of general treasurer.

The general superintendent invited Richard W. DuBose to respond. He offered his thanks to the body for honoring him today in this way. He shared his excitement for this opportunity to serve the Fellowship in this capacity and to work more closely with the

general superintendent. He said that he is thrilled to be at the national office, and he loves the people that he works with. He feels honored and is very grateful. The body responded with applause as an expression of appreciation.

Electronic Voting Instructions

The chair called on Mark D. Christianson to give instructions for logging in the voting device to the system. Mark Christianson explained there are 3,800 voting devices available and 1,300 were not utilized during the morning's meeting. He reported there are over 2,400 hand-held devices that are successfully logged in.

Resolution 14. Commission on Doctrinal Purity Name Change

Michael D. Calise, member of Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 14. Commission on Doctrinal Purity Name Change, and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 14 as follows:

WHEREAS, The authorization for the Commission on Doctrinal Purity is found in the General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY; and

WHEREAS, The title "Commission on Doctrinal Purity" can convey a negative and restrictive sense; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Doctrinal Purity can provide a more positive contribution to the Fellowship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the name of the Commission on Doctrinal Purity be changed to the name Commission on Doctrines and Practices; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the name change be reflected wherever the title is found in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and in all public and private communications within the Fellowship; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES, Section 4. Resolutions Committee, paragraph c. Scriptural interpretation, page 147, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 Doctrines and Practices ~~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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY, paragraph a., Authorization and purpose, page 166, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES ~~DOCTRINAL PURITY~~

a. **Authorization and purpose.** A Commission on Doctrines and Practices ~~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.

Point of Order

A delegate wanted to know about the integrity of the voting devices and asked why there are over 4,000 delegates and the last ballot had only 1,900 in use. The chair

responded that all voting devices being used are registered for the vote. He cannot speak to someone who has a device and chooses not to use it or if a device has not yet been picked up for usage.

Point of Order

A motion was moved and seconded to forego the reading of the preamble of the resolutions. The chair asked if the body would allow the chair and the Resolutions Committee to make that decision based upon the individual resolution, however, we will expedite the reading of the resolutions when possible. The response was agreement.

Election of General Secretary

The general treasurer read Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBTERS, Section 2, paragraph b, pertaining to the election of the office of the general secretary. The chair called for the first elective ballot to be cast for the office of general secretary, as nominated by the General Presbytery, and voting instructions were given to vote 1 for "yes" and 2 for "no." The name of Donna L. Barrett was presented as the nominee selected by the General Presbytery.

The chair called for the vote on the office of general secretary, and declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the first elective ballot for the office of general secretary:

Total Votes Cast	1,795
Invalid Votes	0
Votes Needed to Elect	1,197
Yes	1,694
No	101

Having noted that Donna L. Barrett received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared Donna L. Barrett to be elected to the position of general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for a four-year term to expire in 2023.

The general superintendent invited Donna L. Barrett to respond. She recognized her mother, Karen Barrett, and sisters, Brenda Billner and Debbie Miller, who flew to Orlando to be in attendance today, and expressed her deep appreciation to them for their support. She expressed her thanks to God, to her former superintendent, John R. Wootton, to James T. Bradford, former general secretary who has passed the baton so graciously, and to General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay, who recognized that God gives gifts that are different from what people are used to seeing and different from historical expectations. She recognizes that her "container" is different than what has been a typical general secretary. She noted that she is different: she is left-handed, a single adult, a blonde,

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and she happens to be female, which the body responded to with a roar of laughter and applause. She stressed that we need to pray for one another, and she committed to do the best job that she can as general secretary. She is humbled and honored, and she thanked the body for their vote.

Resolution 1. Honorary General Presbyters

Donald H. Detrick, chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1. Honorary General Presbyters and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 1 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution and Bylaws make provision for honorary general presbyters; and

WHEREAS, There is no present provision for an executive presbyter who has served less than twenty years to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, The insight and counsel of an executive presbyter can be of substantial benefit to the General Presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, paragraph j, pages 128–129, which reads:

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)]

Be amended to read:

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 or executive presbyter 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)]

Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter—J. Don George

Donald H. Detrick, chair of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter—J. Don George and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, J. Don George has served the North Texas District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God with distinction, as an evangelist, pastor, and executive presbyter; and

WHEREAS, He served the General Council as an executive presbyter from 2001–2017; and

WHEREAS, He served as the senior pastor of Calvary Church in Irving, Texas, from 1972–2017 and continues to serve as pastor emeritus; and

WHEREAS, He served this Fellowship on numerous boards and committees including the Assemblies of God World Missions Board and the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Board; and

WHEREAS, He helped further the cause of higher education by serving on the Board of Directors for the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary and the Board of Regents for Southwestern Assemblies of God University; and

WHEREAS, He held pastorates in Plainview, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Fort Worth, Texas; before becoming senior pastor of Calvary Church; and

WHEREAS, He served our missionary vision by traveling often to foreign countries for evangelism crusades; and

WHEREAS, This Fellowship is blessed by the wisdom, leadership, vision, and faithful service of J. Don George; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

WHEREAS, J. Don George meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That J. Don George be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

General Superintendent Clay asked the body to recognize J. Don George and express its appreciation to him. The body responded with applause.

Election of Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions

The chair presented the name of Gregory M. Mundis as the nominee selected by the General Presbytery for the office of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. Mark D. Christianson gave instructions indicating to vote 1 for “yes” and 2 for “no.” The chair called for the vote on the office of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and declared the voting closed.

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

Total Votes Cast	1,747
Votes Needed to Elect	1,165
Yes	1,666
No	81

Having noted that Gregory M. Mundis received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds votes required, the chair declared Gregory M. Mundis to be elected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions for a four-year term to expire in 2023.

The chair invited Gregory M. Mundis to respond. He shared his favorite verse, Mark 10:45 (NLT), “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” He expressed his thanks for the Holy Spirit being an integral part of his life, and told of the privilege it is to be a part of the Executive Leadership Team and the Executive Committee of Assemblies of God World Missions. He expressed thanks to his wife, Sandie, who has stood by him for forty-eight years, and told of his highest honor to serve his Lord Jesus and this Fellowship.

Resolution 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

Walter F. Harvey, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution makes provision for District Council Affiliated Assemblies (General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI, Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies, page 131); and

WHEREAS, The same provision mandates that these assemblies shall be under the supervision of the district council; and

WHEREAS, The term “supervision” is so broad in scope and interpretation, and the phrase “shall be under the supervision of the district council” so compulsory that it becomes a legal imposition and practical impossibility to the district; and

WHEREAS, There are a host of methods and structures currently being used by districts to care for, serve, invest in, and advance district council affiliated assemblies, thereby fulfilling one of its key roles; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies, page 131; which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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.

Point of Order

A delegate asked the chair to facilitate an opportunity to reopen the registration of the electronic voting devices so that more delegates could be registered. The chair agreed to the process, and Mark D. Christianson gave instructions for submitting the voter login. The chair then declared the electronic voting registration closed.

Resolution 3. Organizational Assistance Language

Maricela H. Hernandez, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 3. Organizational Assistance Language and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 3 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution makes provision for district council affiliated assemblies (General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI, Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies, page 131); and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws makes provision for a district council, upon invitation by a General Council affiliated assembly, to "bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status" (General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VI, Section 4, paragraph c. Organizational assistance, page 153); and

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WHEREAS, The meaning of "being supervised" without being district affiliated is unclear; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council, paragraph c. Organizational assistance, page 153, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 provide organizational assistance 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.

Resolution 4. The Role of the District

Gary D. Wileman, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 4. The Role of the District and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws articulates the role of the district (General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 2. The Role of the District, pages 148–149); and

WHEREAS, This specific section states that the district oversees district affiliated churches in accordance with their own bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The term “oversees” is so broad in scope and interpretation and the phrase “the district oversees district council affiliated assemblies” so compulsory that it becomes a legal imposition; and

WHEREAS, The districts, in compliance to their own bylaws, determine how to best care for, serve, invest in, and advance district council affiliated assemblies, thereby fulfilling one of their key roles; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 2. The Role of the District, pages 148–149; which reads:

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 disciplines for its constituents.

Be amended to read:

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

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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 ~~relates to oversees~~ district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and disciplines for its constituents.

Resolution 5. Committee for Spiritual Life and Discipleship

Darryl E. Wootton, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 5. Committee for Spiritual Life and Discipleship and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 5 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws makes provision for a Spiritual Life Committee (ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES, Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee, page 147); and

WHEREAS, General Superintendent Doug Clay has made a priority of spiritual life with initiatives to enhance Bible engagement, spiritual life, and discipleship among our Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has supported these initiatives and affirms Superintendent Clay's pursuit of a vibrant Pentecostal spirituality combined with practical ways to increase biblical and theological knowledge, understanding, and practice among our Fellowship as standard operating procedure; and

WHEREAS, The above noted bylaw regarding a Spiritual Life Committee appointed by the general superintendent seems to be out of alignment with our current realities and practice, has no clearly stated purpose, and is fraught with ambiguous language; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES, Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee, page 147, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

A Spiritual Life and Discipleship Committee ~~shall~~ may be appointed at the discretion of by the general superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery.; Said committee members shall be selected from a

cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function with duties as assigned by the general superintendent for a 2-year period and report at his or her direction to the biennial meeting of the General Council and to the Executive Presbytery as feasible.

Resolution 6. Salary Duties of the General Presbytery

Doyle A. Fulkes, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 6. Salary Duties of the General Presbytery and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 6 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery authorized a National Leadership and Resource Center Structural Working Group to undertake an extensive review of national office structures and systems and made accompanying recommendations; and

WHEREAS, The recommendations of the National Leadership and Resource Center Structural Working Group were adopted by the 2017 General Presbytery in session; and

WHEREAS, The recommendations of the National Leadership and Resource Center Structural Working Group require that the salaries of the Executive Leadership Team be evaluated every four years; and

WHEREAS, The recommendations of the National Leadership and Resource Center Structural Working Group require that the annual cost of living adjustment be extended to the Executive Leadership Team only after it has been extended to the national office employees; and

WHEREAS, The recommendations of the National Leadership and Resource Center Structural Working Group require that the announced compensation adjustments only reflect the percentage and not the actual amounts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery, paragraph d, page 145, which reads:

Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery

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

d. Determine the salaries and allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of not less than seven general presbyters which shall be comprised as follows: one executive presbyter acting as a

liaison to the committee, three district superintendents—two from geographic areas and one from a language/ethnic area—and four general presbyters who are lead pastors. They shall be appointed as necessary by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. The committee shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action. An outside accounting firm may be engaged annually at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery. This review by the outside accounting firm shall be done at a minimum of every four years.

Be amended to read:

Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery

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

d. Determine the salaries ~~and allowances~~ of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of not less than seven general presbyters ~~which~~ shall be comprised as follows: one executive presbyter acting as a liaison to the committee, three district superintendents—two from geographic areas and one from a language/ethnic area—and four general presbyters who are lead pastors. They shall be appointed every four years, coinciding with the full-term election year of the general superintendent, as necessary by the Executive Presbytery ~~for the purpose of making a~~ to review of such salaries ~~and allowances~~. The committee shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action. An outside ~~accounting firm will~~ may be consulted ~~engaged annually at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery. In years when there is not a general superintendent election, the elected officers will receive the same percentage annual wage adjustment (AWA) as all other national office employees ~~This review by the outside accounting firm shall be done at a minimum of every four years.~~~~

Resolution 7. Voting Constituency of District Councils

Michael D. Calise, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented a Substitute Resolution 7. Voting Constituency of District Councils and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Substitute Resolution 7 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a voluntary cooperative fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The individual districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God are an affirmation of the intent to facilitate geographical and ethnolinguistic empowerment and decision-making; and

- WHEREAS, District meetings are an expression of the "grassroots nature" of the Fellowship through the election of leaders and a deliberative process of decision-making; and
- WHEREAS, The needs of districts are different from the needs of the General Council; and
- WHEREAS, It is vital to make every effort to affirm the minister's relationship to the greater body; and
- WHEREAS, The engagement of ministers from a diverse set of ministry callings is what provides strength to district meetings; and
- WHEREAS, Many ministers are currently unable to attend and have a desire to participate in district meetings, such as currently deployed Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and Assemblies of God World Missions missionaries; and
- WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 10. Meetings, grants the Executive Presbytery and certain committees the option to consider voting members as present when they participate "through the use of a conference telephone or other communications device" but the Bylaws do not provide a similar option for other groups, such as district councils in session; and
- WHEREAS, District Councils desiring the option to permit voters to participate remotely are further restricted from doing so in General Council Bylaws, Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 4. Voting Constituency; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 4. Voting Constituency, page 149, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 for ~~at~~ district meetings and meet the district's requirements for participation in that meeting.

Resolution 8. Honorary General Presbyter—J. Kenneth Burtram

Donald H. Detrick presented Resolution 8. Honorary General Presbyter—J. Kenneth Burtram and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

WHEREAS, J. Kenneth Burtram has served as a general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as superintendent of the Potomac Ministry Network for six years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as secretary-treasurer of the Potomac Ministry Network for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

WHEREAS, J. Kenneth Burtram meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That J. Kenneth Burtram be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The chair recognized J. Kenneth Burtram, and the body responded with applause.

Resolution 9. Honorary General Presbyter—James T. Bradford

Maricela H. Hernandez presented Resolution 9. Honorary General Presbyter—James T. Bradford and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, James T. Bradford, Ph.D., has served our Lord Jesus Christ and the Assemblies of God with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for thirty-nine years, having been licensed to preach on May 1, 1979, and ordained on April 14, 1982; and

WHEREAS, James T. Bradford has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as general secretary with exceptional Christian excellence since his appointment to that office in February 2009; and

WHEREAS, He has submitted his resignation as general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in order to pursue full-time pastoral ministry; and

- WHEREAS, He has served for nearly four decades in pastoral ministry, having fulfilled assignments as Chi Alpha campus pastor at the University of Minnesota; pioneer pastor of Sojourn Campus Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota; pastor at Newport-Mesa Christian Center in Costa Mesa, California; pastor at Broadway Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and pastor at Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on executive boards including those of Vanguard University, the Southern California District Executive Presbytery, Evangel University, the General Council Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, He continues now to serve the body of Christ in pastoral ministry as pastor at Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri; and
- WHEREAS, He has distinguished himself among us as an exemplary servant leader, being richly evidenced by his spirit of genuine love, sincere kindness, and Christlike humility; and
- WHEREAS, He has further distinguished himself among us as a skilled and anointed overseer, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, excelling in faith, marked by integrity and diligence, correctly handling the Word of truth, and showing himself to be one who watches his life and doctrine closely; and
- WHEREAS, The apostle Paul in his New Testament letters urged the Church to give honor to whom honor is due and further declared that the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor; and
- WHEREAS, James T. Bradford has proven himself faithful as he has walked and worked among us; and
- WHEREAS, As members of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, we have enjoyed the privilege of serving alongside James T. Bradford as close kindred and in dear fellowship; and
- WHEREAS, The 104th session of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, on April 24, 2018, requests the General Presbytery to approve James T. Bradford for election as honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God by the General Council in session; and
- WHEREAS, The Southern Missouri District Council expresses its heartfelt appreciation to James T. Bradford for his loyal and loving service to our Assemblies of God Fellowship; and

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WHEREAS, ARTICLE IX, Section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE II, Section 2, paragraph d, (9), page 138, of the General Council Bylaws further describes the rights and privileges of such honorary general presbyters; and

WHEREAS, James T. Bradford meets and exceeds all General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

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

The chair recognized James T. Bradford, and the body responded with applause.

Resolution 10. Honorary General Presbyter—Jonathan M. Hollis

Doyle A. Fulkes presented Resolution 10. Honorary General Presbyter—Jonathan M. Hollis and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, Jonathan M. Hollis has faithfully served this Fellowship with distinction as a pastor in western, central, and eastern Kansas for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, He has most recently served Colonial Heights Assembly of God, Wichita, Kansas, as pastor for most of those fifty years; and

WHEREAS, He has admirably served the Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network as Youth director (D-CAP) for two years, Men's director for twenty-five years; and World Missions director for twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, He has simultaneously served the Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network as assistant superintendent for thirteen years and executive treasurer for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, His leadership in the Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network has represented the highest standards of integrity, loyalty, diligence, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan M. Hollis meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Jonathan M. Hollis be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The chair announced that Jonathan M. Hollis was unable to be present due to health reasons, and he recognized family members who were present and asked them to carry this body's love and appreciation to Jonathan M. Hollis. The body responded with applause.

Resolution 11. Honorary General Presbyter—Johnny E. Jones

Michael D. Calise presented Resolution 11. Honorary General Presbyter—Johnny E. Jones and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, Johnny E. Jones received his first ministerial credential with The General Council of the Assemblies of God in 1968, was then ordained in 1970, and has held ministerial credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God in an unbroken and exemplary manner for fifty years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a youth pastor at First Assembly of God in Greenville, South Carolina; as senior pastor of First Assembly of God in Bessemer, Alabama, for nine years; and as senior pastor of First Assembly of God in Montgomery, Alabama, for twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Alabama District Council as assistant sectional presbyter for the Birmingham Section, assistant Christian Education director for three years, and Christian Education director for one year; and

WHEREAS, The Alabama District has great appreciation for Johnny E. Jones's wise and visionary leadership, and for his ministry to its local churches and to individual pastors, and for his commitment to U. S. and World Missions, and for his spiritual maturity, personal accessibility, and noble character; and

WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God for thirty-one years as general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to

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be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Johnny E. Jones meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

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

The chair announced that Johnny E. Jones was not present, and he asked Kenneth W. Draughon, superintendent of Alabama District Council, to give Johnny E. Jones the love and appreciation from this body. The body responded with applause.

Announcement—General Presbytery Caucus

The chair announced for all general presbyters to keep their voting devices and stay seated when the meeting is recessed. All others in the hall will be dismissed, and the General Presbytery will go into session for the nominating process for the unexpired term of the general treasurer.

Point of Order

A delegate requested that Resolution 15. Divorce Due to Domestic Violence be considered today before the meeting is recessed since his responsibilities required him to return home the next day. The chair apologized but responded that the request would be denied, however, the resolution could be handled early in the morning.

Recess

The chair recessed the meeting at 3:11 p.m. Michael R. Burnette Jr., pastor of LifePointe Church in Clarksville, Tennessee, offered prayer for the General Presbytery meeting to follow and for an anointing to be upon tonight's service.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 2, 2019

The Friday evening service of the 58th General Council began at 7:00 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. The service began with worship, led by Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota.

D. Rick Ross, superintendent of the North Carolina District, introduced Hal Donaldson, president and chief executive officer of Convoy of Hope. In 2019, Convoy of Hope is celebrating twenty-five years of service in the ministry of compassion. General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay honored Hal Donaldson and congratulated him for twenty-five years of outstanding ministry and mission.

Rodney K. Loy, executive presbyter of the Gulf Area, introduced Terry G. Goff, pastor of First Assembly of God in Nashville, Arkansas, and invited him and his wife, Cherie, to

the platform. Rodney K. Loy told of the great loss they sustained from a fire that destroyed their church building. He also introduced Stephen L. and Rhonda Bruce, pastors of Faith Way Assembly of God in La Follette, Tennessee, and invited them to the platform. He told of their church's total loss from flash flooding that filled the church with eight to ten feet of water. The two couples were presented gifts from the General Council, and ten thousand dollars was given to each couple for their churches. The congregation responded with an applause of appreciation. Loy offered prayer and received the evening offering with a promise that all the funds received in tonight's offering will be given to bless these two churches and others like them. The offertory was provided by the River Valley Worship Team who also led in a time worship.

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay introduced Melissa J. Alfaro, executive presbyter of the Additional Representation for the Ordained Minister Under 40 Years of Age and co-pastor with her husband, Joaquin Alfaro Jr., of El Tabernaculo Asambleas de Dios in Houston, Texas, who brought the evening message to nearly five thousand in attendance. She expressed her gratitude to the Executive Leadership Team for giving her this privilege and gave thanks to them. She introduced her family including her parents, Victor M. and Janie Arellano, pastors of Bethel Assembly of God in Jacksboro, Texas.

Melissa J. Alfaro brought a fiery, but compassionate message entitled, "Guarding Your Heart from Relation-slips," with her text from 2 Chronicles 26. She referenced that people wait until the rope breaks before replacing it, and strand by strand, it becomes unraveled until it is too late. She referenced this to relationships that are a vital part of the body of Christ. She focused on three areas that apply strongly to the church family: stewarding a relationship with God, one another, and the next generation. Using King Uzziah as the biblical example of a man walking with God and greatly blessed by God, she revealed how he sought God in such a manner that was easy for others to follow. She declared that "when our ears are connected to the heart of God, then our hands are always connected to fruitfulness and purpose." She described how King Uzziah had many successes and fame that led him to self-reliance, pride, and his downfall. She stressed to "guard your heart in seasons of busyness so that they do not lead you into a relation-slip with God." She told that the more successful and the busier a person is, the more one's prayer life, appetite for God's Word, faith, love, and spiritual maturity should grow. She also brought out that relational isolation can cause relation-slips with God and others. She referenced King Uzziah's pride as being what separated him from God, spiritual leaders, and voices of authority. How one responds to wise counsel is a reflection of spiritual maturity or a lack thereof. God has the answer, if one is dealing with relational isolation, whether it be among family, church, or district/network. His love is greater than any disappointment. Let God walk with you through the pain and allow Him to restore by surrendering to Him. She charged ministers and leaders to be intentional about engaging their family and the body of Christ.

Melissa J. Alfaro told that it takes "generational synergy"—the young giving energy to the old, and the old giving wisdom to the young. There needs to be spiritual fatherhood and motherhood in the body. She called for the body to breathe life into each other. She closed her message with an altar call for those who wanted to renew their relationship with

God, people, and the next generation. Hundreds flooded the altar.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 3, 2019

Business Session

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay opened the morning session at 8:30 a.m. He introduced Mark A. Entzminger, administrator of Church Ministries, who offered a report on Camp GC19 and on the children's and youth ministries. He then showed a video of children's and youth activities from the week. Rick D. Pasquale, missionary with Assemblies of God World Missions, led in prayer for the Holy Spirit to be outpoured in tonight's services, that all children and youth will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay asked the body to offer special prayer and to intercede for Puerto Rico, for the will of the Lord to be accomplished in the elections being held today. Ariel Olivencia, pastor of Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana in Fort Worth, Texas, and Ivan De La Torre, superintendent of the Puerto Rico District Council, offered prayer on behalf of Puerto Rico. Robert Ketterling II, executive presbyter of the North Central Area, led in prayer for Superintendent De La Torre, for God to give strength and help to the Puerto Rico District leadership. Others led in prayer for the situation in Puerto Rico.

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay called the business session to order at 8:41 a.m.

Roster Report

Ramon J. Rojas, co-chair of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 8:20 a.m., Saturday morning, August 3, 2019, and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

VOTING:

Ordained	2,985
Licensed	819
Delegates	371
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	268

Voting Constituency

4,463

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,303
Auxiliary Staff	35
Certified	196
General Attendees	2,964
Guests	103
Other	564
Staff	160

Camp GC19	50	
Fine Arts/AIM	12,196	
	Nonvoting Constituency	17,571
TOTAL REGISTRATION		22,034

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

Election of General Treasurer

The chair called for the election of the office of general treasurer and explained the nomination process of the General Presbytery which met yesterday, indicating that names receiving 10 percent (10%) of the nominating vote are reviewed by the General Presbytery Screening Committee for Nominees to determine the names to be forwarded to this body. The general secretary read the Bylaws provision pertaining to the election of the general treasurer. Mark D. Christianson offered instructions for logging in to the electronic voting system. The chair declared the logging-in process closed.

Duane P. Durst, chair of the Screening Committee for Potential Nominees, announced the following two names being presented by the General Presbytery as nominees for the office of general treasurer: Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus and Rodney K. Loy. General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay indicated that both individuals are great nominees and are committed to the Lord.

The chair called for the vote of the office of general treasurer and declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Total Votes Cast	1,278
Invalid Votes	6
Votes Needed	852
Wilfredo De Jesus	471
Rodney K. Loy	801

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the office of general treasurer. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Total Votes Cast	1,274
Invalid Votes	6
Votes Needed	850
Wilfredo De Jesus	261
Rodney K. Loy	1,007

Having noted that Rodney K. Loy received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared Rodney K. Loy elected to the office of general treasurer.

The general superintendent expressed appreciation to Rodney K. Loy and invited him to respond. He said he and his wife, Cindy, have always been faithful in whatever assignment the Lord places us. He committed to being faithful to what God calls him to do, and he expressed his thanks to this body.

Resolution 18. Honorary General Presbyter—Dan C. Betzer

Darryl E. Wootton, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 18. Honorary General Presbyter—Dan C. Betzer and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 18 as follows:

WHEREAS, Dan C. Betzer has served the Assemblies of God for twenty-four years as nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Peninsular Florida District Council as assistant superintendent, presbyter, and honorary presbyter, while pastoring First Assembly of God in Fort Myers, Florida, for the past thirty-three years, leading the congregation to more than ten thousand members and adherents; and

WHEREAS, While serving as District World Missions director, he transformed the Peninsular Florida District into the number one missions-giving district in the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Dan C. Betzer was the speaker for *Revivaltime*, the syndicated international radio voice of the Assemblies of God for nearly seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the larger body of Christ as a board member of the National Religious Broadcasters association, authored twenty-one published books, produced seventeen albums as a solo vocalist, and continues to write and host daily and weekly radio and television programs impacting all of southwest Florida and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

WHEREAS, Dan C. Betzer meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Dan C. Betzer be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

General Superintendent Clay asked Terrell R. Raburn, superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District Council, to bring a report on Dan C. Betzer and his health. Superintendent Raburn reported that Dan C. Betzer suffered a brain stem stroke approximately three weeks ago. Dan C. Betzer is able to communicate and is now in rehabilitation, learning to walk and use his lower extremities. He is a faith-filled and visionary person, and we have no doubt that he will recover by the grace and help of God. David L. Thomas is leading the congregation of First Assembly of God in Fort Myers, Florida. They have good support staff, and the church is doing very well. Superintendent Raburn led in prayer for the Lord to bring healing to Dan C. Betzer.

Resolution 19. Honorary General Presbyter—L. Alton Garrison

Gary D. Wileman, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 19. Honorary General Presbyter—L. Alton Garrison and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 19 as follows:

WHEREAS, L. Alton Garrison has been an incredible blessing to the Arkansas District and to the churches and ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, His ministry has not only impacted this nation, but impacted the worldwide Fellowship of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The Acts 2 Journey, led by L. Alton Garrison, has been a tremendous blessing to many churches across this Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, He served the Arkansas District Council and the General Council with integrity, loyalty, hard work, and diligence; and

WHEREAS, L. Alton Garrison served as the Arkansas District's pastoral representative for the General Presbytery for two years, and as a general presbyter as Arkansas District assistant superintendent for four years, and also served four years as Arkansas District superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He served the General Council as executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions for two years; and

WHEREAS, He served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as assistant general superintendent for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

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WHEREAS, L. Alton Garrison meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That L. Alton Garrison be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The general superintendent expressed his appreciation to L. Alton Garrison, and the body responded with an applause of appreciation.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

The chair called for the vote on the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area.

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of nonresident executive presbyters.

The chair called for the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

Point of Order

A delegate asked the chair to facilitate an opportunity to reopen the registration of the electronic voting devices so that more delegates could be registered. The chair agreed to the process following the current election in process.

Report on Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

Micheal E. Dickenson presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,095
Invalid Votes	47
Votes Needed to Elect	730
Christopher N. Beard	55
Ronald J. Bontrager	29
Terry L. Crigger	1
David W. Dillon	38
Donald G. Gifford	41
Joseph S. Girdler	52
Larry H. Griswold	196
R. Jeffrey Hlavin	49
John K. Jordan	39
Phillip B. Schneider	54
Bradley T. Trask	302
John R. Wootton	192

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area and declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,152
Invalid Votes	62
Votes Needed to Elect	768
Christopher N. Beard	37
Ronald J. Bontrager	4
Terry L. Crigger	6
David W. Dillon	5
Donald G. Gifford	14
Joseph S. Girdler	15
Larry H. Griswold	210
R. Jeffrey Hlavin	7
John K. Jordan	17
Phillip B. Schneider	18
Bradley T. Trask	580
John R. Wootton	177

Since there was no election, the chair called for the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area and declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,156
Invalid Votes	59
Votes Needed to Elect	771
Christopher N. Beard	18
Ronald J. Bontrager	2
Terry L. Crigger	4
David W. Dillon	3
Donald G. Gifford	2
Joseph S. Girdler	2
Larry H. Griswold	171
R. Jeffrey Hlavin	7
John K. Jordan	6
Phillip B. Schneider	3
Bradley T. Trask	782
John R. Wootton	97

Having noted that Bradley T. Trask received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared Bradley T. Trask elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area.

The chair expressed appreciation to Bradley T. Trask and invited him to the platform. Bradley T. Trask expressed his thanks for the vote of confidence. He expressed his love for the Assemblies of God and his appreciation for executive presbyters who have gone before him. He is grateful for the leadership of Larry H. Griswold, and he desires to honor him.

Point of Order

A delegate expressed concern with the numbers of invalid votes that are being recorded, indicating that some may be voting for the 5-digit number from the Voter Guide and not the numbers assigned on the screen. A clarification may be needed. The chair responded that good clarification will be given prior to each election.

Electronic Voting Registration

In response to a previous request, the chair reopened the registration of the electronic voting devices so that more delegates could be registered. The chair then declared the electronic roster closed.

Greeting from Larry H. Griswold

The general superintendent expressed his appreciation to Larry H. Griswold and invited him to the platform. The body responded with an applause of appreciation. Larry H. Griswold expressed appreciation to this Fellowship and his gratefulness for the lifelong journey he has had in the Assemblies of God. It has been a high honor to serve this Fellowship in many capacities, and he plans to continue following the Lord in whatever capacity He has for them.

Appreciation to Sobhi W. Malek

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay invited Sobhi W. and Jeri Malek to the platform. He expressed appreciation to the Maleks for their work in creating the Shariff Bible in partnership with Assemblies of God World Missions. They have given a lifetime of service and have published this Bible in Arabic for the Muslim community to come to Christ. The body responded with applause. General Superintendent Clay invited the delegates to visit the Maleks' booth in the Exhibit Hall and see a copy of this Scripture translation.

Resolution 20. Honorary General Presbyter—Nam Soo Kim

Walter F. Harvey, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 20. Honorary Presbyter—Nam Soo Kim and moved its adoption. A motion was carried to adopt Resolution 20 as follows:

WHEREAS, Nam Soo Kim has served the Assemblies of God with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for forty-eight years; and

- WHEREAS, He served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as an executive presbyter for twenty years and served on various committees of the General Council; and
- WHEREAS, He served as district superintendent of the Korean District of the Assemblies of God for eight years; and
- WHEREAS, He served on the boards of Central Bible College and Valley Forge Christian College; and
- WHEREAS, He continues to serve on the Executive Council of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship from 2008 to present and serves as the international facilitator of 4/14 Window Movement for children around the world; and
- WHEREAS, He served as senior pastor of Full Gospel New York Church (Promise Church) in New York City for forty years; and
- WHEREAS, This Fellowship is blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, distinctiveness, 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, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and
- WHEREAS, Nam Soo Kim meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Nam Soo Kim be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The chair recognized Nam Soo Kim, and the body responded with applause.

Resolution 21. Honorary General Presbyter—Kenneth W. Owen Sr.

The chair of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 21. Honorary General Presbyter—Kenneth W. Owen Sr. and moved its adoption. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 21 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Kenneth W. Owen Sr. has served with distinction the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God as a pastor, presbyter, executive presbyter, and general presbyter; and

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WHEREAS, He served as assistant superintendent of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God for twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, He served as a general presbyter of the General Council for twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, He made significant contributions not only to the South Carolina District Council, but also to The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, This Fellowship is blessed by his commitment to spiritual formation in others, righteousness and justice, world missions, church planting efforts, and faithfulness to the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom of God revealed in the Messiah Jesus; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, pages 128–129, 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; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth W. Owen Sr. meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Kenneth W. Owen Sr. be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The chair recognized Kenneth W. Owen Sr., and the body responded with applause.

Resolution 12. Assemblies of God World Missions Operational Support

Gary D. Wileman presented Resolution 12. Assemblies of God World Missions Operational Support and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

Following extended discussion, the chair cautioned the body not to respond audibly in being for or against those speaking. The chair recognized that the question is being called for. He explained that in order to cease debate, there needs to be a two-thirds vote in favor of ending the debate and moving to the previous question. The motion was moved, seconded, and carried to cease debate and move the previous question.

The chair called for the vote to adopt Resolution 12. Assemblies of God World Missions Operation Support as presented. The motion was carried to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS, Section 3. Support of Assemblies of God World Missions, was adopted under the World Missions Plan in 1955; and

WHEREAS, The subsequent and expanding growth of World Missions requires infrastructure to support that growth and to provide additional services to the world missionary family, such as security-level training, information technology updates, candidate processing, member care, missionary kids (MK) support, resident visa processing, shipping, communications, and training, among other services; and

WHEREAS, World Missions increasingly pushes to access parts of the world that need to hear the gospel and has set expansive goals to establish the church worldwide under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS, Section 3. Support of Assemblies of God World Missions, paragraph d, page 184, which reads:

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:

d. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency Fund.

Be amended to read:

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:

d. Seven Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency Fund.

Point of Order

A delegate brought to the attention of the chair that yesterday it indicated that Resolution 15. Divorce Due to Domestic Violence would be considered first thing today. The chair responded that he thought the delegate making the request had left the meeting, however, he will plan to address that resolution next.

Privileged Question

Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, asked to speak on behalf of the financial integrity of Assemblies of God World Missions. In response to some of the previous discussion, he assured the body that the hallmark of

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Assemblies of God World Missions is to honor the designations of where the money/offerings are requested to be used. There are multiple levels of accountability instituted to make sure this is done. Integrity and character are of absolute and highest importance to them, and he thanked the General Council for their confidence.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

The chair called for the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,193
Invalid Votes	21
Votes Needed to Elect	796
Damon J. Ables	111
Terry G. Bailey	95
Scott Holmes	135
Murphy R. Matheny	52
B. Randel McCarty	56
Don E. Miller	251
Larry Moore	186
George Westlake III	238
Robert B. Wilburn	48

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,179
Invalid Votes	4
Votes Needed to Elect	786
Damon J. Ables	70
Terry G. Bailey	67
Scott Holmes	95
Murphy R. Matheny	21
B. Randel McCarty	28
Don E. Miller	477
Larry Moore	134
George Westlake III	264
Robert B. Wilburn	19

Since there was no election, the chair called for the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,042
Invalid Votes	5
Votes Needed to Elect	695
Damon J. Ables	32
Terry G. Bailey	32
Scott Holmes	45
Murphy R. Matheny	10
B. Randel McCarty	15
Don E. Miller	642
Larry Moore	90
George Westlake III	161
Robert B. Wilburn	10

Since there was no election, the chair called for the fourth elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area and noted that the Bylaws require the number of candidates be reduced to the three individuals receiving the most votes in the last ballot. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report on the fourth elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area:

Total Votes Cast	959
Invalid Votes	5
Votes Needed to Elect	640
Don E. Miller	741
Larry Moore	94
George Westlake III	119

Having noted that Don E. Miller received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared Don E. Miller elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area.

The chair expressed appreciation to Don E. Miller and invited him to the platform. Don E. Miller expressed that he is honored and humbled by this vote. He is honored to serve under our general superintendent, and he is excited to be a part of the future. He asked the body to pray for him for God to place a mantle upon him to do his very best to serve in this position and see our Fellowship go forward.

Resolution 15. Divorce Due to Domestic Violence

The chair expressed his apology for not covering this resolution first thing this morning.

Darryl E. Wootton presented Resolution 15. Divorce Due to Domestic Violence and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

A substitute motion was moved to amend the General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, by the addition of a new paragraph "o." with the following text: "Domestic or other violence except self-defense." The chair requested for the Parliamentary Committee to advise if this amendment is germane to the original motion. The chair ruled the amendment is not germane to the previous motion.

The chair announced for the 5-minute rule of speaking to be implemented.

Following extended discussion, the chair recognized that the question is being called for. A motion was moved, seconded, and carried by two-thirds vote to move the previous question.

The chair called for the vote to adopt Resolution 15. Divorce Due to Domestic Violence as presented. The vote was not clear. The chair called for a standing vote. The chair declared the motion to adopt resolution 15 was passed. Following is Resolution 15 as adopted:

WHEREAS, The General Council has determined that a married person with a living former spouse may receive ministerial credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God provided that his or her divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion; or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness; or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals with a call to ministry have endured domestic violence and have been advised by Assemblies of God pastors to abandon such a marriage; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals with a call to ministry have witnessed domestic violence to their children by a spouse and have been advised by Assemblies of God pastors to abandon the abusive marriage for the safety of their children; and

WHEREAS, Human views regarding domestic violence and spousal abuse vary greatly from culture to culture ranging from rejection to actual acceptance; and

WHEREAS, God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) but also hates violence perpetrated on others (Psalm 11:5, Proverbs 6:16-17); and

WHEREAS, Marriage is a relationship of mutually sacrificial love as referenced in Ephesians 5 (“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church”). Therefore, a pattern of domestic violence undermines the scriptural expectations of sacrificial love; and

WHEREAS, In the New Testament, God’s Word instructs fellow believers to relate to one another in humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:1–3). It exhorts believers to put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander and malice, to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven them (Ephesians 4:31–32). These commands provide an implicit foundation for marriage and reveal an antithesis to domestic violence and abuse; and

WHEREAS, God’s heart is toward those who are oppressed and against the oppressor (Psalm 146:5–9; Isaiah 1:16–17); and

WHEREAS, Many spouses who leave a violent spouse (with or without children) are running for their lives from someone who has literally become an oppressor and enemy. David and others in Scripture fled for their lives and prayed for God to deliver them from the hands of their enemies. That is justified when one’s life or children’s lives are endangered; and

WHEREAS, This confluence of verses and overarching biblical themes validate this exception for approving a divorce with The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, A confluence of several verses and overarching biblical themes validate the exception of ecclesiastical annulment which the church has instituted by approving the divorce of those who have been deceived or defrauded by their spouse; and

WHEREAS, The use of the ecclesiastical annulment has not lessened the need for the applicant to have a divine call, solid integrity, sound doctrine, and fullness of the Spirit; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, paragraph j. Marriage status, pages 156–157, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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), or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5). except as hereinafter provided.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph c. Local church leadership, subparagraph (1) Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, page 169, which reads:

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).

Be amended to read:

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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5).

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph e. Ministerial credentials, pages 169–170, which reads:

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.)

Be amended to read:

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 (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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

Point of Order

A delegate asked the chair to facilitate an opportunity to reopen the registration of the electronic voting devices so that more delegates could be registered. The chair agreed to the request and will do so before further voting is done.

General Superintendent's Medal of Honor

The general superintendent invited Thomas E. Trask and George O. Wood to the platform, along with Larry G. Kolsky and his wife, Sandra. General Superintendent Clay recognized Larry G. Kolsky as having been approved to receive the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor and honored him with the following presentation.

Larry G. Kolsky

The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor is an award of the highest degree presented to outstanding men and women of the Assemblies of God who have distinguished themselves through meritorious service to God, the church, the community, and fellow citizens.

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Larry G. Kolsky has been a beloved part of the National Office family since 1986. Larry recently retired after over thirty-two years serving as an electrician, lead maintenance technician, maintenance shop supervisor, and retiring as the administrator of our Buildings and Properties department. We are truly grateful for the many years he has kept our national campus in superior condition.

Larry worked closely with the Engineering, Carpentry, and Night Maintenance staff, making our facilities always look top-notch. His servant leadership has been an outstanding example to all who have worked with him. On any given day, you would see Larry walking the grounds and picking up trash, stopping to help an employee in need, or making a critical decision about our campus. Larry displayed a lifestyle of the highest level of integrity, leading his staff to higher excellence.

Larry, you distinguished yourself with your meritorious service. What a legacy you have left! You are not only a gifted leader and skilled technician, but you model what it is to be a servant of Christ. Thank you for leading your team to enhance our National Office in so many ways. We so appreciate all you have accomplished and set your hand to do. It has been an honor to serve with you!

Congratulations on your retirement. May the Lord bless and keep you through these coming years of rest, relaxation, and travel.

Larry, for your tireless dedication in bringing glory to God and this Fellowship, it gives me great honor to confer upon you the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

Jimmy D. "Baldy" Boyd

The general superintendent invited Jimmy D. "Baldy" Boyd's pastor and wife to escort Jimmy D. "Baldy" Boyd to the platform. General Superintendent Clay recognized Jimmy D. "Baldy" Boyd as having been approved to receive the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor and honored him with the following presentation:

The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor is an award of the highest degree presented to outstanding men and women of the Assemblies of God who have distinguished themselves through meritorious service to God, the church, the community, and fellow citizens.

Baldy has been involved with Ricardo C. (Rick) Allen and Light for the Lost for many years. He has been the Light for the Lost district director for the Peninsular Florida District Council for thirteen years and has worked with previous directors before that. He has assisted the Peninsular Florida District Council in raising over fifteen million dollars during his tenure.

Baldy's former pastor of fifteen years, M. Wayne Blackburn, says he in an undeniable presence in any room, with a magnetic personality and outstanding leadership qualities. While working as a top producer for State Farm Insurance, Baldy always felt a call to ministry. He found his calling in serving Light for the Lost.

Baldy recently retired to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and is now a valued member of The Assembly at Broken Arrow. His current pastor, Ronald K. Woods, calls him a modern-day Barnabas—full of faith and a great encourager. Baldy takes a vision and advances it with passion. “He is a pastor’s dream!”

Baldy never misses an opportunity to make life better for everyone around him. He has an amazing gift and connects with people of all ages. Baldy never fails to use his life, gifts, time, and resources to advance the kingdom of God—this is the most important thing to him.

Baldy, for your tireless dedication in bringing glory to God and this Fellowship, it gives me great honor to confer upon you the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor.

The audience responded with an applause of appreciation for both recipients.

Point of Order

A delegate requested to have actual counts for those motions that require a two-thirds vote to pass. The chair responded that going forward the motions requiring a two-thirds vote will have an actual count of votes.

Resolution 13. Child Safety

Maricela H. Hernandez presented Resolution 13. Child Safety and moved its adoption.

Doyle A. Fulkes, member of the Resolutions Committee, made a motion on behalf of the Resolutions Committee to amend Resolution 13 by inserting the word “Willful” in place of the word “Known” on page 9, line 10, letter k. The motion was seconded. A motion was made to amend the amendment by inserting the word “willfully” in place of the word “knowingly” on page 9, end of line 1, in addition to also inserting the word “Willful” in place of “Known” as previously stated. The motion was seconded and carried.

The maker of the resolution was speaking in favor of the resolution and used his five-minute time limit. He asked for a privileged motion to be allowed additional time to speak and conclude his thoughts. The chair called for the vote and indicated the motion failed.

A motion was moved to refer Resolution 13 to the Executive Presbytery for consultation with attorneys in California, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Washington, and such other attorneys as the Executive Presbytery may desire—said attorneys shall be ones who litigate lawsuits regarding claims of child abuse against churches or religious organizations to ascertain the degree of legal liability for Assemblies of God churches, ministers, and affiliated ministries, if this resolution were to be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried to refer Resolution 13.

Following is Resolution 13 as amended:

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WHEREAS, Children are precious to our Lord Jesus, and Holy Scripture commands us not to harm children: "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:5-6, NKJV); and

WHEREAS, The General Council is zealous to fulfill the Lord's command, protecting children from harm and striving to see that all its ministries and ministers are providing safe places for ministry to children; and

WHEREAS, The General Council is committed to publishing child safety practices and guidelines in accordance with biblical truth as an educational resource for ministries and ministers affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to enable each to hire, train, supervise, and discipline its own staff, clergy, church leaders, and volunteers to protect children from harm and abuse; and

WHEREAS, It would be beneficial to codify in our General Council Bylaws our commitment to publish child safety practices and guidelines for our affiliated churches, ministries, and ministers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, paragraph B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, page 173, be amended by the addition of a new Section 15, to read as follows:

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 15. Child Safety Practices and Guidelines

Our Lord Jesus placed a high value on children (Mathew 18:2-6). In accord with this truth, the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God is committed to publishing (and updating) "Child Safety Practices and Guidelines" for local churches, ministers, and ministries associated or affiliated with the Assemblies of God. Any credentialed minister, affiliated church, or affiliated ministry who is found to willfully and grossly neglect implementation of child safety practices (as suggested by the "Child Safety Practices and Guidelines") that are reasonable and possible for the specific ministry context may be subject to disciplinary action and/or disaffiliation.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, pages 173–174, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph k. to read as follows:

k. Willful and gross neglect to implement reasonable child safety practices (as suggested in the “Child Safety Practices and Guidelines” published by the General Presbytery). (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 15.)

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, pages 173–174, paragraphs k–l be relettered paragraphs l–m.

Christianity Today Offering

General Secretary Donna L. Barrett shared that regardless of legislation or rules, what matters is a child being safe in our churches. She announced the General Council has negotiated with *Christianity Today* to offer Assemblies of God churches and ministers a subscription to *Church Law and Tax* with access to *Reducing the Risk*, a child abuse prevention program authored by Richard R. Hammar, all for the cost of \$99. This is normally a \$229 subscription. She indicated that an e-mail will follow to all ministers with details about this offer.

Point of Order

A delegate requested a division of the house to get a vote count concerning Resolution 15. Divorce Due to Domestic Violence. The chair conferred with the Parliamentary Committee and announced that it would not be possible as further business has been conducted.

Point of Order

A delegate indicated he was not able to obtain an electronic voting device. The chair requested a teller to get him a device, and the system will be reset before further elections.

Recess

The chair recessed the meeting at 11:35 a.m. for lunch, with the understanding that the afternoon Business Session will reconvene at 1:45 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 3, 2019

The general superintendent welcomed everyone and opened the Saturday afternoon session at 1:58 p.m.

Reception for L. Alton and Johanna Garrison

The general superintendent announced that following tonight's evening service, there would be an appreciation reception for L. Alton and Johanna Garrison at the Rosen Centre Hotel.

2021 General Council

The general superintendent announced the 2021 General Council will begin on Wednesday, August 4, and continue through Friday, August 6, 2021. He explained the Phoenix, Arizona, Convention Center is not fulfilling its contract, due to construction, and the location for the 2021 General Council will now be Orlando, Florida. He also explained the difficulty in locating a tier one city that can accommodate our needs, and Orlando has agreed to honor the cost point of this General Council for the 2021 General Council.

Appreciation to Staff

A motion prevailed to express appreciation to the General Council staff who are working at this General Council.

Business Session

General superintendent Douglas E. Clay called the Business Session to order at 2:03 p.m.

Roster Report

Steven L. Powell, co-chair of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 1:33 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, August 3, 2019, and moved its adoption:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,990	
Licensed	825	
Delegates	371	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	268	
Voting Constituency		4,474

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,307	
Auxiliary Staff	35	
Certified	196	
General Attendees	2,965	
Guests	103	
Other	582	
Staff	160	
Camp GC19	50	
Fine Arts/AIM	12,228	

	Nonvoting Constituency	17,626
TOTAL REGISTRATION		22,100

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

A motion prevailed to close the roster of the 58th General Council.

Welcome to Fraternal Delegates

The general superintendent recognized the fraternal delegates from other Pentecostal denominations and international guests from our national churches in attendance, welcoming them and expressing appreciation to them for being in Orlando. He announced that many in our international family are here to attend the World Assemblies of God Fellowship Executive Committee that will be meeting on Monday, August 5, 2019. He also invited everyone to attend the 9th Triennial World Assemblies of God Congress to be held March 19–21, 2020, in Madrid, Spain.

Electronic Voting Registration

The chair opened the registration of the electronic voting devices so that delegates could be registered for voting. Instructions were given for submitting the voter login. The chair declared the electronic voter registration closed.

Election of Executive Presbytery—Northeast Area

The chair called for the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson, chair of the Tellers Committee, presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	990
Invalid Votes	3
Votes Needed to Elect	660
J. Kenneth Burtram	71
Duane P. Durst	320
Nicholas W. Fatato	66
Nathan J. Gagne	54
Bryan D. Koch	59
Donald J. Immel	35
Donald A. James	49
Thomas W. Keinath	29
Mark A. Lehmann	211
Dennis W. Marquardt	19
Timothy P. Schmidt	45
Jerry W. Terry	29

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Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,041
Invalid Votes	7
Votes Needed to Elect	694
J. Kenneth Burtram	63
Duane P. Durst	542
Nicholas W. Fatato	48
Nathan J. Gagne	23
Bryan D. Koch	25
Donald J. Immel	9
Donald A. James	26
Thomas W. Keinath	16
Mark A. Lehmann	252
Dennis W. Marquardt	6
Timothy P. Schmidt	15
Jerry W. Terry	9

Since there was no election, the chair called for the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,055
Invalid Votes	8
Votes Needed to Elect	704
J. Kenneth Burtram	30
Duane P. Durst	750
Nicholas W. Fatato	32
Nathan J. Gagne	15
Bryan D. Koch	5
Donald J. Immel	6
Donald A. James	8
Thomas W. Keinath	5
Mark A. Lehmann	180
Dennis W. Marquardt	5
Timothy P. Schmidt	4
Jerry W. Terry	7

Having noted that Duane P. Durst received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared Duane P. Durst elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area.

The chair expressed appreciation to Duane P. Durst and invited him to the platform. Duane P. Durst introduced his wife, Beverly, and gave a bit of his personal salvation testimony and told that he is a product of the investment made by those who poured into his life. He expressed his love for this church and thanked the body for the honor and privilege of serving this Fellowship.

Report on Evening Offering

The general superintendent reported that the evening offering was just a few dollars short of forty thousand dollars, and he thanked everyone for their giving. He also told of the prayers offered that our General Council team would be an influence on the Convention Center staff and others in Orlando. He announced they are seeing the fruition of those prayers.

Point of Order

A delegate asked a question about the anonymity of the Voter Identification system. The chair asked Mark D. Christianson to respond. He told that the system is a third-party system and firewalls are maintained between each minister's information and the third-party vendor. Only the assigned voter identification number is used and there is no data held by the company that ties a minister's number to the voter identification number. He assured the delegates that the voting system is anonymous and confidential, and indicated that he would be available at the front of the stage at the conclusion of the meeting if someone had additional questions. The chair indicated that this matter will be looked into for the 2021 General Council to make sure there is total anonymity.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

The chair called for the first elective ballot of the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	996
Invalid Votes	2
Votes Needed to Elect	664
Larry S. Burgbacher	43
David A. Divine	25
Kenneth W. Draughon	37
Phil F. Edwards	13
John A. Loper Jr.	19
Thomas L. Moore	45

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Terrell R. Raburn	210
D. Rick Ross	274
Victor E. Smith	8
Carl Stephens	46
Randy L. Valimont	274

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,057
Invalid Votes	6
Votes Needed to Elect	705
Larry S. Burgbacher	18
David A. Divine	14
Kenneth W. Draughon	18
Phil F. Edwards	4
John A. Loper Jr.	7
Thomas L. Moore	20
Terrell R. Raburn	172
D. Rick Ross	420
Victor E. Smith	4
Carl Stephens	18
Randy L. Valimont	356

Since there was no election, the chair called for the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,051
Invalid Votes	4
Votes Needed to Elect	701
Larry S. Burgbacher	11
David A. Divine	8
Kenneth W. Draughon	6
Phil F. Edwards	1
John A. Loper Jr.	3
Thomas L. Moore	5
Terrell R. Raburn	61
D. Rick Ross	655
Victor E. Smith	1

Carl Stephens	5
Randy L. Valimont	291

Since there was no election, the chair called for the fourth elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area and noted that the Bylaws require the number of candidates be reduced to the three individuals receiving the most votes in the last ballot. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the fourth elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area:

Total Votes Cast	1,065
Invalid Votes	10
Votes Needed to Elect	710
Terrell R. Raburn	70
D. Rick Ross	760
Randy L. Valimont	225

Having noted that D. Rick Ross received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared D. Rick Ross elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area.

The chair expressed appreciation to D. Rick Ross and invited him to the platform. D. Rick Ross expressed his thanks to his wife, Susan, and to the body. He shared about being reared by parents who were both ordained ministers with the Assemblies of God and their legacy lives on through the lives of their four children, three of whom are in full-time ministry. He reminded the body that legacy is not **what** we leave behind, but **who** we leave behind. He is thrilled to be a part of this amazing family, *Our Church, Our Family*.

Assemblies of God World Missions Commissioning Service

The general superintendent invited Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, to give a report on the upcoming Sunday evening Commissioning Service. The executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions expressed excitement to have 1,660 adult missionaries, 750-plus missionary kids, and 300 workers. He thanked everyone for their prayers for Sunday night, as it will be a sacred ceremony as 108 individuals are commissioned to go to 48 different countries of the world. About one-third of them will go to unreached people groups. He expressed gratefulness to God that the Lord of the harvest is answering prayer. He anticipates that it will be a great event!

Prayer for El Paso, Texas

A delegate announced there is currently an active-shooter situation in three separate locations in his hometown of El Paso, Texas, and he asked for prayer for the situation.

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The chair directed him to lead the body in prayer for this situation. Robert W. Fiscus, pastor of Southside Assembly of God in Garland, Texas, led in prayer.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—East Spanish

The chair called for the first elective ballot of the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish:

Total Votes Cast	1,042
Invalid Votes	9
Votes Needed to Elect	695
Manuel A. Alvarez	68
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	623
Gilbert G. Flores	36
Saturnino Gonzalez	250
Rafael Reyes	32
Ramon J. Rojas	24

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish:

Total Votes Cast	1,044
Invalid Votes	6
Votes Needed to Elect	696
Manuel A. Alvarez	34
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus	782
Gilbert G. Flores	16
Saturnino Gonzalez	190
Rafael Reyes	8
Ramon J. Rojas	8

Having noted that Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish.

The chair expressed appreciation to Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus and invited him to the platform. Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus expressed his gratefulness to the Lord that allowed him to be a part of this Movement since 1989 when he became a D-CAP for the

Midwest Latin District. He expressed his thanks to his wife, Elizabeth, for her support and encouragement. He honored Jesse Miranda Jr., who pioneered and trailblazed this path for over fifty years in this Fellowship. He recalled that Jesse Miranda Jr. passed away in July. Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus is grateful for the life of Jesse Miranda Jr. who told him before he passed, “Choco, the mantle is on your life now, you must lead the way.” Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus thanked the body for the confidence to serve in this capacity and gave glory to God.

Jesse Miranda Jr. Memorial Service

Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus announced the memorial service for Jesse Miranda Jr., will be held on August 10, 2019, at 9 a.m., in Irvine, California, and invited everyone to attend to honor this man of God.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—Other

The chair called for the first elective ballot of the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other:

Total Votes Cast	876
Invalid Votes	6
Votes Needed to Elect	584
Su Bum Choe	88
Wan Ki Choi	227
Joshua I. Kang	89
Byong C. Lee	48
Daniel J. Miller	130
Darnell Williams Sr.	288

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other:

Total Votes Cast	983
Invalid Votes	9
Votes Needed to Elect	656
Su Bum Choe	46
Wan Ki Choi	249
Joshua I. Kang	29

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Byong C. Lee	18
Daniel J. Miller	105
Darnell Williams Sr.	527

Since there was no election, the chair called for the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the third elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other:

Total Votes Cast	984
Invalid Votes	7
Votes Needed to Elect	656
Su Bum Choe	18
Wan Ki Choi	152
Joshua I. Kang	8
Byong C. Lee	9
Daniel J. Miller	51
Darnell Williams Sr.	739

Having noted that Darnell Williams Sr. received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared Darnell Williams Sr. elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other.

The chair expressed appreciation to Darnell Williams Sr. and invited him to the platform. Darnell Williams Sr. expressed gratitude for the support of his wife, Kim, the support of his district superintendent, Daniel J. Miller, and the support of this Fellowship. He expressed his desire to be a servant and gave thanks to God for this opportunity to serve.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Additional Representation Ordained Female Minister

The chair called for the first elective ballot of the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister. The chair declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson presented the following report of the first elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister:

Total Votes Cast	1,024
Invalid Votes	2
Votes Needed to Elect	683
A. Elizabeth Grant	589
Maricela H. Hernandez	206

Crystal M. Martin
Karen J. Yancey

135
92

Since there was no election, the chair called for the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister. The chair declared the voting closed.

The chair of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the second elective ballot for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister:

Total Votes Cast	1,023
Invalid Votes	5
Votes Needed to Elect	682
A. Elizabeth Grant	757
Maricela H. Hernandez	174
Crystal M. Martin	61
Karen J. Yancey	26

Having noted that A. Elizabeth Grant received more than the two-thirds votes required for an election, the chair declared A. Elizabeth Grant elected to the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister.

The chair expressed appreciation to A. Elizabeth Grant and invited her to the platform. A. Elizabeth Grant gave thanks to the body for the vote of confidence and to God for her husband, David L. Grant, and told of her passion for Jesus and this church. She is excited about what she believes God is wanting to do in this church. She said it is an honor to serve because she believes God has a great future for this church. She expressed her joy and honor to work with the Executive Presbytery and to serve as one from over nine thousand women ministers in this church. She encouraged women to stand up, step out, and she commits to serving this body in Jesus' name.

Appreciation to Nam Soo Kim

The general superintendent invited Nam Soo Kim, executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other, to the platform and asked him to greet the body. His term of service will be ending, and he was not eligible for reelection. Nam Soo Kim gave thanks for his almost twenty years of serving in this role. He loves serving this body of Jesus Christ, and he is proud to be in the family of the Assemblies of God. He told of being a product of Assemblies of God World Missions because a missionary serving in Korea led him to the Lord and introduced him to Assemblies of God World Missions. He went to New York nearly forty years ago, and he has now finished this task. He has retired. He thanked the leadership for their trust and guiding support. He said that it was a great honor to serve this body and the former general superintendents, Thomas E. Trask and George O. Wood, and this current general superintendent, Douglas E. Clay. The body responded with an applause of appreciation.

Point of Order

A delegate, Owen C. Carr, asked to register an official complaint that the general superintendent was having entirely too much fun! The chair called him out of order. The crowd roared and cheered. The delegate expressed his thanks to the chair for the efficient, effective, professional way in which he has conducted the meeting. The body responded with an applause of appreciation. The chair expressed his thanks and stated that there have been many people praying for this General Council and that he was confident God was going to help us and help him. The general superintendent expressed his appreciation for all the prayers.

Resolution 17. Selection of the Assistant General Superintendent

The general secretary reported that for the purpose of the official Minutes, we need to have a motion to withdraw Resolution 17. Selection of the Assistant General Superintendent, as it was contingent upon Resolution 16 passing, and it failed. A motion was moved, seconded, and carried to withdraw Resolution 17 from consideration. Resolution 17 as printed follows:

WHEREAS, The implementation of Resolution 16 will require time to develop the job description and role responsibilities of the assistant general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery needs time to consider the selection of qualified nominees to submit to the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 3. Vacancies, paragraph a. Executive officers, provides for the filling of vacancies in the offices of General Council executive officers by the Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, It would be advantageous to allow the next two years for the development of the position of assistant general superintendent with nominees to be submitted by the General Presbytery to the 2021 General Council in session; therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the General Council authorize the Executive Presbytery to fill the vacant office of assistant general superintendent by appointment until the next General Council (according to General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 3); and, be it further

RESOLVED That the person selected by the Executive Presbytery to fill the vacancy not be eligible for nomination to the position of assistant general superintendent in 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED That the General Presbytery bring qualified nominees for the office of assistant general superintendent to the 2021 General Council.

Resolution 22. Courtesy Resolution

Walter F. Harvey, a member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 22. Courtesy Resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt Resolution 22 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 58th 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, the Florida Multicultural District Council, and the Second Korean District Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to: The State of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings, 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 express our gratitude for the many events this week to celebrate our wins and focus on our future, for the emphasis on equipping at the Influence Conference, the spirit of grace and unity during the business sessions, and for the opportunity to renew acquaintances and relationships with people from across our sixty-seven districts/networks afforded by this week; 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 person of our General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay, who brought us a clarion call for continued focus on spiritual renewal and outreach, for the Executive Leadership Team, and for the Executive Presbytery; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship, unified by our love for our Lord and one another, make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3); and, be it further

RESOLVED, On this historic occasion of our 58th General Council of the Assemblies of God that we rededicate Our Church, Our Family "to do the greatest work of evangelism the world has ever seen."

Adjournment

The general superintendent led in the singing of the Doxology. Robert D. Crabtree, former superintendent of the Ohio District Council, offered a closing prayer of thanks to the Lord for the joy of serving Him and this Fellowship, and he asked for a mighty anointing

of the Holy Spirit to be in the evening service and prayed for a blessing on Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison, who is speaking tonight, and on General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay.

A motion was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the business meeting of the 58th General Council at 3:15 p.m., Saturday, August 3, 2019.

Executive Presbytery Photo

The general superintendent called for all current and new executive presbyters to come to the platform for official photos.

Recognition of Current Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery

Following are the current nonresident executive presbyters: Melissa J. Alfaro, Additional Representative—Ordained Minister under 40 Years of Age; Dan C. Betzer, Southeast Area; Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesús, Language Area—East Spanish; Duane P. Durst, Northeast Area; A. Elizabeth Grant; Additional Representative—Ordained Female Minister; Larry H. Griswold, Great Lakes Area; Robert Ketterling II, North Central Area; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; Rodney K. Loy, Gulf Area; John E. Maracle, Ethnic Fellowships; Daniel de Leon, Language Area—West Spanish; T. Ray Rachels, Southwest Area; William E. (Bill) Wilson, Northwest Area; Terry L. Yancey, South Central Area.

Following are the current Executive Leadership Team: Douglas E. Clay, general superintendent; L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent; Donna L. Barrett, general secretary; Richard W. DuBose, general treasurer; Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Malcolm P. Burleigh, executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

Recognition of Retired Executive Presbyters and Officers

Following are the retired executive presbyters and officers: Almon M. Bartholomew, former executive presbyter, Northeast Area; James T. Bradford, former general secretary; L. John Bueno, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Warren D. Bullock, former executive presbyter, Northwest Area; Charles T. Crabtree, former assistant general superintendent; Charles E. Crank, former executive presbyter, Great Lakes Area; Richard Dresselhaus, former executive presbyter, Southwest Area; J. Don George, former executive presbyter, South Central Area; Charles E. Hackett, former executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; H. Robert Rhoden, former executive presbyter, Northeast Area; Clarence W. St. John, former executive presbyter, North Central Area; Zollie L. Smith Jr., former executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent; and George O. Wood, former general superintendent.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 3, 2019

The Saturday evening service of the 58th General Council began at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2019, in the Orange County Convention Center.

The service began with worship led by Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota. Robert Ketterling II, executive presbyter of the North Central Area and pastor of River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota, introduced George and Rocio Carballo, pastors and church planters of VIVE Houston in Houston, Texas. He presented them with gifts, compliments of the City of Orlando, the Orange County Convention Center, and partner hotels, and then announced the General Council has chosen them to receive a ministry-enabling gift to eliminate their college debt. It is the desire of the General Council for them to pastor their church and not feel the burden and pressure of college debt. The audience responded with clapping and cheering. Robert Ketterling II offered a prayer and received the evening offering to be used toward the Carballo's school debt. The offertory was provided by the River Valley Worship Team.

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison brought the message. Prior to him coming on the platform, the building went dark and a video was shown emphasizing the difference between the darkness and the light. Using texts from John 8:12; 9:5; 12:35; 2 Corinthians 11:3, he wove a trio of amazing testimonies to bring the reality of healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. He told of his wife, Johanna, and her family's testimony and of his own family's personal testimony. He stated that Satan will attack by every means possible, but it is the power of the Holy Spirit that will set you free. Satan will disguise his attack so you will not recognize him to make you ignorant of God's will, he will substitute lies in place of God's Word, and he will deceive you in your mind and will attack the body. Satan has an objective, but God's power is off the charts. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Garrison encouraged believers to begin to expect and look for God, the One who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist, to perform miracles. He is our Creator, He has made everything, and He can make miracles out of your mess.

L. Alton Garrison showed three videos and introduced individuals from three stories who have been changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. The first was a testimony of John C. Alarid, pastor of Freedom City Church in Springfield, Missouri, who had been a gang member, drug addict, drug distributor, and was in prison, where he encountered Jesus. He told the crowd that he gives all glory to God for where he is at today. Second, was the testimony of Elly C. Marroquin, director of Discipleship Ministries in Springfield, Missouri, who was a former church planter with her husband, Sergio F. Marroquin. She was declared medically infertile. God gave her a miracle pregnancy after eleven years, but there were complications and doctors told her she had the choice to abort the baby or Elly would die. Despite the doctor's prognosis, Elly Marroquin survived when God touched her body. Her baby was born with complications, and doctors did not expect the baby to survive. She told of how they prayed every day and God did what only He can do, and she introduced her twelve-year-old daughter, a picture of perfect health.

Lastly, Garrison showed the movie trailer of *Breakthrough*, the true story of John Smith who fell through the ice on a frozen lake and drowned. He had no heartbeat for an hour. The doctors were ready to call the time of death, but his mother's earnest prayer to the Holy Spirit brought John back to life. She was light in a dark place. John and his mother, Joyce, were introduced along with their pastor Jason P. Noble. L. Alton Garrison commissioned everyone in the building to be light. He gave an altar call for those to come who need specific miracles of deliverance, healing, and resurrection, respectively, and the altar area was not large enough to hold those who responded. The service was closed with the singing of "How Great Thou Art."

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 4, 2019

Communion Service/Memorial Scroll

The Memorial/Communion Service of the 58th General Council was held in the Orange County Convention Center and began at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 4, 2019.

General Secretary Donna L. Barrett opened the service and welcomed everyone. She introduced the Memorial Scroll, a video scroll listing the names of 877 ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council. It was shown throughout the service. She announced a gift of George O. Wood's book *A Psalm in Your Heart* would be given, one to each family present. She also referenced the *In Memoriam* book, listing the names and pictures of the deceased ministers and offered copies to each family. She spoke of the remembrance and honor of these ministers who have gone on to their reward and offered an opening prayer. Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota, led in worship.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 80.

The general secretary recognized the family members present, and the audience responded with applause. She spoke of God's faithfulness, and the worship team led in singing, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay called the congregation to worship and prayer. He introduced Randal L. Ross, pastor of Calvary Church in Naperville, Illinois, who brought the morning message.

Randal L. Ross told of the heritage of his family and the many ministers within his family. He said this is also a time for honoring his father who has passed away and is listed on the Memorial Scroll. He recognized many family members present. He announced that he has a word from the Lord for each one present. His life Scripture is Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." He explained that the apostle Paul's life purpose was "to live is Christ." If you get Jesus in the right place, everything works well; if Jesus is out of place in your life, then nothing works. Jesus is Life.

Randal L. Ross gave his personal testimony of living a backslidden life with drugs and being full of hate, and God radically saved him. He found he can't live for Jesus by

himself. He must first abide in the Lord Jesus Christ. When Christ comes in, it makes us a better person. He charged the congregation to live in Jesus Christ. He said that life is a gift to be enjoyed, but one day, we shall behold Him. The Bible says to place Him first. Heaven is a misunderstood doctrine in the church today. If you take the future out of Christianity, you have nothing, it is not Christianity. Ross shared a story of when he conducted his father's funeral and a woman told him that she had a vision of his dad dancing with Native Americans. The woman didn't know that for years, his dad had supported missionaries to Native Americans in Oklahoma. The Bible tells us that we have not seen, we have not heard those things He's prepared for us. Randal L. Ross shared that one day when his name is on the Memorial Scroll, he wants everyone to think that this is the best day of his life. The greatest reward and greatest honor will be that we are with Jesus. He offered a closing prayer, asking God to fill the hearts of those who have lost loved ones with joy and peace.

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay presided during the Communion service and was assisted by members of the Executive Leadership Team. He said that God implemented the Last Supper which became the first Communion. Communion gives a sense of hope, as we come to the table, our church, our family. May our spirits be filled with hope. He led in prayer. Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota, led in worship as the elements were being distributed.

The general superintendent received the offering and announced that this offering will be used to provide scholarship funds to The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education for students who are children of deceased ministers. He offered prayer for the offering. The general superintendent expressed his thanks and appreciation to Randal L. Ross for the message. The service concluded at 11:33 a.m.

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 4, 2019

Assemblies of God World Missions Commissioning Service

The final service of the 58th General Council began at 5 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. This service marked the first time in the 105-year history of the U.S. Assemblies of God for new world missionaries to be commissioned during a General Council service. The service began with a processional of 108 Assemblies of God World Missions new career missionaries and their families filling the aisles while a combined orchestra and choir led by Victory Church in Lakeland, Florida, sang, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Larry Dissmore and Sharon Wilkins, orchestra and choir directors, respectively, from Evangel Temple in Springfield, Missouri, and professors from Evangel University, directed the combined orchestra and choir.

Richard L. Johnson, director of Assemblies of God World Missions Personnel and Member Care, welcomed the attendees and missionaries, and Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, led the invocation.

Announcement of General Treasurer Appointment

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay announced that some changes in leadership had taken place since the adjournment of the General Council Business Session on Saturday afternoon, August 3, 2019. The Executive Presbytery has accepted a letter of withdrawal from Rodney K. Loy from the position of general treasurer-elect. Upon acceptance of this letter, a special session of the Executive Presbytery convened in accordance with the General Council Bylaws concerning a vacancy in office. The General Council Bylaws require the Executive Presbytery to fill a vacancy created when the General Council is not in session. Following the election of Richard W. DuBose to the position of assistant general superintendent, the General Presbytery convened a special session and brought forth two names for consideration of the position of general treasurer—Rodney K. Loy and Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus. In recognition of the General Presbytery's recommendations, the Executive Presbytery has appointed Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus to fill the vacancy in the position of general treasurer. The general superintendent asked the congregation to pray for Rodney K. Loy and his family and First Assembly of God in North Little Rock, Arkansas, as he follows the Spirit's leading, and, also to pray for Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus and his family and the New Life Covenant Assemblies of God in Chicago, Illinois, as their pastor transitions to this new assignment.

The general superintendent expressed appreciation to Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus and invited him to the platform. Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesus introduced his wife, Elizabeth. He greeted the body and expressed his thanks to the Executive Presbytery for their confidence and to God. He said that he is looking forward to this opportunity to serve the Lord in a new capacity.

Assemblies of God World Missions Commissioning Service cont.

Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota, led in worship. Richard L. Johnson read Scripture, and the choir and orchestra provided special music.

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay brought the message entitled, "Why Missions?" He told the new missionary families that tonight we, your church family, are privileged to recognize and celebrate those being commissioned and released globally to help advance the kingdom of God. He reviewed the three primary elements of a commissioning service: Physical action by the laying on of hands, group participation by having sensitivity of heart, and spiritual impartation of the Holy Spirit's empowerment. He reminded the congregation that a commissioning service is biblical and visionary. He stressed that he wants this Fellowship to see the bigger picture of what God is doing not only in the United States but around the world. This service was not only sending out new candidate missionaries, but others in attendance may feel the call themselves to missionary service. Over 42 percent of the world's population lives among more than seven thousand unreached people groups. It is vital for the Assemblies of God to be intentional about missions. The general superintendent expressed his thanks to the candidates for accepting the call of God on their lives and being willing to take the gospel

to the world. Douglas E. Clay concluded by declaring that Jesus is the only way to eternal life, and He desires that none shall perish.

Special music was provided by the combined choir and orchestra from Victory Church in Lakeland, Florida. Gregory M. Mundis and Richard L. Johnson led in the Commissioning Statement presentation and the call to offering the candidate missionaries' lives and finances. These leaders called for the elders to come forward who will be praying over the candidate missionaries. General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay offered a charge to the new missionaries, followed by a prayer of commissioning and the presentation of stoles to the newly appointed missionaries. General Treasurer Richard W. DuBose received the evening offering to be used for the Assemblies of God World Missions Senders Fund. Carl Ryan Williams and the worship team from River Valley Church in Burnsville, Minnesota, provided the music. Richard W. DuBose offered the benediction.

Donna L. Barrett
General Secretary

In Memoriam

The following list of deceased ministers includes the names of all who have been reported to the Office of the General Secretary from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2019, and were included in the Memorial Scroll:

Abeyta, Lee M., Phoenix, AZ
Acosta, Jose Luis, Odessa, TX
Adams, Jonathan D., Fort Ripley, MN
Addison, Leslie M., Macon, GA
Albright, Herbert L., Jefferson City, MO
Albritton, Ted G., Rosharon, TX
Alcantara, P. T., Kahului, HI
Alexander, Marcus L., Broken Arrow, OK
Allen, Edward C., Durant, FL
Allen, Stephen D., Dayton, TN
Alston, Elvin R., Coldspring, TX
Amburn, J. C., Haskell, TX
Ames, David L., Muskegon, MI
Ames, Joyce E., Branson, MO
Amico, Peter P., Everett, MA
Anderson, Donald H., Rochester, MN
Andrews Jr., Clarence, Globe, AZ
Andrews, Charles R., Durant, FL
Ankrom, Doyle D., Independence, MO
Annas, Donald E., Scotts Valley, CA
Apfel, William J., Barre, VT
Argue, David W., Colorado Springs, CO
Arnold, James R., Plainfield, IL
Asher, Vernie, Des Arc, MO
Atkins, Charles R., Sylacauga, AL
Atwood, Elaine, New Braunfels, TX
Auch Sr., Ronald J., Kenosha, WI
Autry, Terrie I., Jacksonville, IL
Auwah, Yaw, Sterling, VA
Babino, Marion G., Wahiawa, HI
Bailey, Joe, Carrollton, TX
Baker, John E., La Plata, MD
Baldree, M. Michael, Lake City, FL
Baldwin, Charles F., Stayton, OR
Balius, Samuel H., Springfield, MO
Ballard, James A., Farmers Branch, TX
Barber, Nancy V., Silver Creek, NY
Barela, Amelia G., Las Cruces, NM
Barker, William G., Piedmont, MO
Bates, Clarence L., Idabel, OK
Bates, Lou E., Quinlan, TX
Batista, Maria G., Hammonton, NJ
Bauer, Thomas V., Del City, OK
Bauman, Harold L., Stevensville, MT
Beck, James W., Monticello, AR
Beck, Michael A., Pelham, GA
Beckett, Royce M., Kansas City, MO
Beckman, Robert J., Chehalis, WA
Bedzyk, Jennie, Springfield, MO
Beesley Jr., Harold M., Heath, OH
Beggs, Mary J., Amarillo, TX
Behrend, Glynn E., Gonzales, TX
Bell, Gladys W., Macon, GA
Bellinger, Paul E., Forsyth, MO
Bender, Frank R., Seattle, WA
Bender, Larry L., Wichita, KS
Benigas, Leona R., Pocatello, ID
Bennett, William C., Franklin, NC
Benningfield, Thomas, Lancaster, TX
Benson, Bob L., Cyril, OK
Benton, Jonathan W., Pasadena, CA
Beretta, Patricia C., Marlton, NJ
Bernhardt, Adam G., Gulf Breeze, FL
Berry, Jesse P., Carlton, OR
Berryman Jr., Earl L., Oklahoma City, OK
Berwick, Warren A., Monrovia, CA
Beshirs, Joe, Kerville, TX
Bidwell, Terry R., Titusville, PA
Billings, James D., Bend, OR
Blackwell, Ellen K., Charles Town, WV
Blackwell, Jack C., Springfield, MO
Blair, Robert J., Gilbert, AZ
Bliss, W. Mark, Springfield, MO
Boatright, George H., West Fork, AR
BonGiovanni, Guy, Canfield, OH
Borth, Jack L., Cedar Hill, MO

Bost, Jo Ann, Buckeye, AZ
 Botsford, Thomas H., Fontana, CA
 Boutwell, T. DiAnn, Atmore, AL
 Bowen, Bobby H., Crossville, TN
 Box, Edward F., Weaubleau, MO
 Boyd, Willie R., Gore, OK
 Boykin, E. B., Haines City, FL
 Bozarth, Glenna D., Springfield, MO
 Bradford, Peter M., Los Angeles, CA
 Braithwaite, Bruce, Springfield, MO
 Braley, Edna C., Mandan, ND
 Brandt, Marian W., Kennewick, WA
 Brashear, R. Wayne, Montgomery, TX
 Breden, Gail F., Walden, NY
 Bremigen, Jack J., Clearfield, PA
 Bremigen, Lois V., Clearfield, PA
 Brendiar, Paul S., Gulf Shores, AL
 Brenizer, Donald L., Paradise, CA
 Bresson, Mary E., Springfield, MO
 Brewer, Jimmie D., Searcy, AR
 Brewer, Paul W., Jefferson City, MO
 Briggs, Jack L., Millis, MA
 Briggs, John W., Kuna, ID
 Broadhead, R. Hermes, Meridian, MS
 Brockway, Sean P., McAlester, OK
 Brooks, Norman L., Bonner Springs, KS
 Brown, Donald M., Centralia, WA
 Brown, Iris E., Panama City, FL
 Brown, Joseph W., Thomaston, ME
 Brown, Margaret J., Yakima, WA
 Brown, Ruby L., Casa Grande, AZ
 Brown, Steven R., Columbia, SC
 Brown, Timothy L., Clarksville, TN
 Bryant, Paul F., Elk City, OK
 Buchanan, James W., Nashville, TN
 Buck Sr., Herman, Shiprock, NM
 Buck, Charmian J., Meridian, ID
 Bunch, George E., Radcliff, KY
 Bunney, John M., Pandora, OH
 Bunney, Lyman J., Crosby, TX
 Burk, Orville M., Fairfield, OH
 Burke, John G., Spokane, WA
 Burnett, Joyce A., Tumwater, WA
 Burrell, Dillard J., Lakeland, FL
 Burroughs, Howard D., Kerrville, TX
 Bursey, Steven, Pensacola, FL
 Burton, Lester E. K., Little Rock, AR
 Butcher, Lee A., Tulsa, OK
 Butler, Curtis M., Pueblo, CO
 Buttram, James G., Rogers, AR
 Caceres, Alicia, Reading, PA
 Cadena, Felix R., Little Elm, TX
 Cain, Billy P., Henderson, TX
 Cain, John R., Altamonte Springs, FL
 Calaway, J. Albert, Pleasant Hill, IA
 Caley, David L., Aurora, CO
 Calhoun, Samuel E., Clinton, NJ
 Calle, Jose A., Palm Coast, FL
 Campbell, Gillette S., Tuckerman, AR
 Cannon, Mary Ann, Lexington, SC
 Cao, Peter T., Long Beach, CA
 Carde, Juan, Springfield, MA
 Carlile, Walter F., Villa Rica, GA
 Carpenter, Dale C., Spanaway, WA
 Carrier, Jack E., Canton, GA
 Carriker, Roland E., Fairbury, NE
 Carter Sr., Robert L., Washington, DC
 Carter, O. Douglas, Bloomington, IN
 Gaston Jr., Frederick, Middletown, NY
 Cavin, Odis B., Knoxville, TN
 Chaney, Grady B., Cheyenne, WY
 Chang, Chul Ick, Los Angeles, CA
 Chapin, Ormel J., Bend, OR
 Chapman, Paul W., Sacramento, CA
 Chappel, Charles F., Alexandria, IN
 Chua, Leocadio V., Perkasie, PA
 Cimino, Esther R., Springfield, MO
 Clark, Charles W., Tolleson, AZ
 Clements, Earl N., Chico, CA
 Clendening, Robert S., Bloomington, IN
 Cium, Betty L., Phoenix, AZ
 Cobb Jr., Roy T., Preston, GA
 Cole, Elton E., Mabelvale, AR
 Coleman, Willard E., Grand Junction, CO
 Colettis, George T., Clearwater, FL
 Collette Sr., Robert W., Wake Forest, NC

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Collier Jr., James W., Estes Park, CO
Collins, Bobby L., Dunn, NC
Conde, Rosa, Brooklyn, NY
Conn, Sallee J., Edmonds, WA
Conway Jr., David J., Bardstown, KY
Cooley, Otho L., Fortson, GA
Coons Jr., Harry S., Lexington, TX
Copeland, L. Ruth, Searcy, AR
Corby Sr., Robert J., Richmond, MI
Cordero, Edwin, Laurel, MS
Cordova, Pedro D., Douglas, AZ
Corey, Albert C., Crestview, FL
Corral, Ernestina, Montebello, CA
Correll, Norman L., Avon, IN
Cotos, Jorge L., Elizabeth, NJ
Cotton, Billy J., Opelika, AL
Courtney, Robert L., Kansas City, MO
Coury, Richard J., Clinton, MI
Covington, Sophia M., Ozark, MO
Cox Sr., Charles A., Milton, FL
Crabtree, Ray L., Fairmont, WV
Craig, Manford R., Leavenworth, KS
Craig, Shirley A., Russellville, AR
Creason, Kenneth E., Mounds, OK
Creek, James O., Tulsa, OK
Creek, Juanita M., Lees Summit, MO
Cribb Sr., Warren H., Savannah, GA
Crider, Tommy G., Albuquerque, NM
Crowder, Esther M., Mandan, ND
Crowe, William M., Waynesboro, MS
Cruz, David D., Rosenberg, TX
Cruz, Marcos, Orland, CA
Culbertson, Ted H., Pendleton, OR
Cummins, William L., Story, WY
Curtis, Betty J., Bellingham, WA
Czubkowski, Anthony, Budd Lake, NJ
Dalapu, Lenora, Buckeye, AZ
Daniels, Myra D., Lake Charles, LA
Davee, Samuel G., Columbia, MO
Davidson, David L., Katy, TX
Davis Jr., James E., Escalon, CA
Davis Sr., Joel E., Hudson, NC
Davis, Milton R., Southaven, MS
Davis, Paul L., Redlands, CA
Davis, Wesley D., Newark, DE
De Jesus, Trina, Brooklyn, NY
Dearborn, Carolyn A., Indian Trail, NC
Del Orbe, Fernando, Port Richey, FL
Del Toro, Natanael, Merritt Island, FL
Delaney, Ronald A., Colleyville, TX
Dewey, Barney C., Stockton, CA
DeWolfe, Emory P., Dumas, TX
DiBiase, Carmine, Philadelphia, PA
Dippold Jr., Otto E., Lakeland, FL
Divico Jr., John J., Tampa, FL
Dockins, Jay D., Pineville, AR
Dowers, Melvin E., Dequincy, LA
Downs, Sarah C., West Monroe, LA
Drake, Alonzo R., Linden, MI
Droll, Ruth L., Milan, NM
Dumas, Norma L., Topeka, KS
Dunn, Eugene L., Otis Orchards, WA
Dunn, Phillip W., Smyrna, GA
Durham, Cecil E., Bullhead City, AZ
Durham, John C., Houston, TX
Durham, Joseph M., Indianapolis, IN
Duvall, Salvador E., Bonita, CA
Dykes, Oscar M., Jacksonville, FL
Eddington, Terry R., Blue Springs, MO
Eden, Marla L., Kodak, TN
Egbert, Kenneth A., Cedaredge, CO
Eidsor, Robert L., Minneapolis, MN
Eldred, Phil H., San Marcos, CA
Eldridge, Michael D., Brooklyn Park, MN
Elkins, Carol W., Bessie, OK
Elliott, Robert J., Lakeland, FL
Elliott, T. Maxine, Grand Junction, CO
Ellis, Elmer L., Brundidge, AL
Ellsworth, Jack W., Catoosa, OK
Elswick, B. C., Tyler, TX
Engelgau, Herman V., Clackamas, OR
Epler, Dwayne P., Bakersfield, CA
Esch, Walter W., Ennis, TX
Escobedo, Daniel, Bastrop, TX
Espino, Alfredo, Clovis, NM
Esquilin, Mario F., Hollywood, FL

Eversole, Dallas W., Max Meadows, VA
 Ezzo, Elsie V., Newtown, PA
 Faaula, Lagitua, West Valley City, UT
 Faggard, David R., Springfield, MO
 Falcon, David, Central Islip, NY
 Farrand, Alvera R., Springfield, MO
 Farrand, William F., Fair Grove, MO
 Faulkner, W. Derek, Murfreesboro, TN
 Feliciano, Rafael, Yauco, PR
 Ferguson, David D., Longview, TX
 Fernandez, Jesse, Lake Jackson, TX
 Ferrin, W. Paul, Colorado Springs, CO
 Fest, Vernon D., Liberty, MO
 Fields, Eugene E., Orangevale, CA
 Fihaki, Janet Fay, Collinsville, IL
 Fitch, Nathan, Magee, MS
 Flanagan, Daniel G., Gretna, LA
 Flokstra Jr., Gerard J., Springfield, MO
 Flores Jr., Salvador M., Saginaw, MI
 Flores, Ana Maria, Sylmar, CA
 Ford, Glenn, Lake Charles, LA
 Ford, Patricia A., Braggs, OK
 Formica, Thomas F., Delhi, NY
 Foster, James T., Raytown, MO
 Foster, Roslyn F., Danville, KY
 Fout, William A., Romney, WV
 Fowler, G. Calvin, Bourbon, MO
 Fox, George N., Flushing, NY
 Franklin, Harold G., Dawson, GA
 Frankum, Dale W., Brazoria, TX
 Freitag, Leon D., Bismarck, ND
 Frey, Phillip D., Vandalia, MO
 Friesen, Lucille M., Springfield, MO
 Frost, Otis W., Milton-Freewater, OR
 Fualaau, Popea Peo, Federal Way, WA
 Fussell, Gloria J., Wetumpka, AL
 Gall, John C., Garland, TX
 Gallop, L. Berdetta, Columbia, MO
 Ganiere, Theresa M., Iron Ridge, WI
 Garrett, Martin R., Roanoke, VA
 Garza, Charlotte P., Grand Prairie, TX
 Gaytan, Romualdo R., Ennis, TX
 Gaytan, Sara Z., Ennis, TX

George, R. Kenneth, Albuquerque, NM
 Gharney, Jonah, Round Rock, TX
 Gianopoulos, Theodore, Springfield, MO
 Gibson, Roger C., Caldwell, ID
 Gifford, Thilbert D., Elk City, OK
 Gilbert, Ronnie S., Lometa, TX
 Gilbreath, Paul B., Panama City, FL
 Gills Sr., Sidney, Lake Wales, FL
 Glenn, Robert L., Sun City, AZ
 Glover, Billy J., Alabaster, AL
 Glover, Jonathan W., Springfield, MO
 Golding Sr., Fred L., Madison, OH
 Golie, Jack K., Decatur, AL
 Gonzales, Angelica P., Alamo, TX
 Gonzales, Jose G., Santa Fe, NM
 Gonzalez, Catalina, San Benito, TX
 Goodwin, Bertie L., Grove Hill, AL
 Gould, David A., McAlester, OK
 Graber, Robert M., Canton, OH
 Graetz, Lloyd A., Palmetto, GA
 Graham, Betty R., Webb City, MO
 Grams, Elaine M., Henderson, NV
 Grams, Eugene E., Springfield, MO
 Grams, Herman R., Henderson, NV
 Graves, Kevin R., Prior Lake, MN
 Greco, Salvatore, Center Moriches, NY
 Greer, T. Edward, Miami, FL
 Grell, Mary Ellen, Carlinville, IL
 Griffin, Tom H., Pinedale, WY
 Grigson, Craig, Cabool, MO
 Grimes, O. Walton, Aquasco, MD
 Guinn, Troy H., Prosser, WA
 Gullett, Michael A., Plainview, AR
 Gunderson, Bruce W., Fergus Falls, MN
 Gunn, Bruce A., Springfield, MO
 Gunn, John L., Springfield, MO
 Guthrie, Glenda M., Galena Park, TX
 Hadler, Lyle M., Lakeland, FL
 Hagar, Ozella D., Lubbock, TX
 Haisley, Darcy E., Lake Stevens, WA
 Hale, Norman D., Warrenton, MO
 Hale, Raymond L., Sand Springs, OK
 Hall, Billy W., Montgomery, AL

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Hamar, James D., Warrenton, OR
Hammack Jr., John W., Duluth, MN
Hancock, Edwin W., Oklahoma City, OK
Hancock, Wayne H., Fort White, FL
Hankins, Manuel F., Holliday, TX
Hansel, Harley E., Portage, WI
Hanson, Verna H., Spokane Valley, WA
Harman, John F., Pennsville, NJ
Harper, John L., Springfield, IL
Harris, John M., Phoenix, AZ
Harris, Stephen L., Springfield, MO
Hart, Beverly A., Robbinsdale, MN
Hart, Frank W., Harwinton, CT
Hart, Inez, Elizabeth, AR
Hartwick, A. Reuben, Harleysville, PA
Hatfield, Larry E., Chickasha, OK
Heistermann, K. Heinz, Springfield, MO
Hendricks, Eulalee J., Warsaw, IL
Hennessy, James L., Ovilla, TX
Hepner, Robert, Bel Alton, MD
Hernandez, Gregorio, San Tan Valley, AZ
Hernandez, Manuel A., New Bedford, MA
Hicks, John B., Haynesville, LA
Hines, David P., Waldron, AR
Hinkle, Kenneth R., Bridgeport, OH
Hoaeae, Jeremiah L., Captain Cook, HI
Hodges, Wendall D., Virginia Beach, VA
Hoffmann, Daphene G., Columbia, IL
Holden, Gerald A., Middletown, VA
Holder, Richard L., Norman, OK
Holsinger, J. C., Redmond, WA
Holtz, James W., Shelby, NC
Hoover, Elva J., Lakeland, FL
Hoover, Mary T., Springfield, MO
Horner, Johnny L., Winnsboro, TX
Hudspeth, Dewey L., Paris, TN
Hughes-Bretz, Dora C., Missoula, MT
Hunter, Eugene A., Clifton, CO
Hurst, Alan G., Fishers, IN
Hurst, June, Springfield, MO
Huston, Constance S., London, KY
Hutchcroft, Vera M., Spokane, WA
Hutchins, Donald D., Wheaton, IL
Hutsell, Dreta M., Roswell, NM
Hyatt, Carlene, Lubbock, TX
Hyatt, Morris D., Dothan, AL
Idol, Brenda H., Buffalo, TX
Imes, Harold N., Mifflintown, PA
Infante, Ruben V., McAllen, TX
Ingle, Daryl R., Indio, CA
Irby, James E., Toomsba, MS
Jacks, Reagan L., Pearland, TX
Jackson, Edna M., Victorville, CA
James, Marcus, Holbrook, AZ
Janes, Billie G., Howell, MI
Jansen, Harris L., Kalamazoo, MI
Jeffers, Richard Jay, Santa Rosa, CA
Jenkins, J. Donald, Hanford, CA
Jenkins, William L., Chipley, FL
Jewell, Vesta C., Phoenix, AZ
Jimenez, Ricardo, Oklahoma City, OK
Johnson, Claude E., Chesterfield, MI
Johnson, Lavilla, Denton, TX
Johnson, Le Roy V., Fountain Hills, AZ
Johnson, Lewis D., Henrico, VA
Johnson, Linda D., Fishersville, VA
Johnson, Mary B., Keene, NH
Johnson, Oliver W., Mukilteo, WA
Jones, Artie L., Henderson, TX
Jones, Edward, Clinton, MD
Jones, Martha F., Ozark, MO
Jones, Sanford M., Irmo, SC
Jordan, Martha R., Jacksonville, FL
Jorgenson, Eleanor A., Richfield, MN
Jorgenson, Melvin E., Richfield, MN
Kaftan, Robert E., Havre, MT
Kaihou, Lesieli P., Sacramento, CA
Kallevig, Omer V., Springfield, MN
Kastl, Sherman W., Phoenix, AZ
Kavanaugh, Fonda M., Sioux Falls, SD
Kelley, Ezra Boyd, Spanish Fort, AL
Kelley, Wesley R., Argyle, TX
Kelly, James T., Knapp, WI
Kemper, Gary M., Everett, WA
Kennedy, James W., Griffin, GA
Kent Jr., Albert W., Lagrange, GA

Kenyon, Anita R., Millville, NJ
 Kestner, Smith E., Kingsport, TN
 Ketcherside, A. L., Russellville, AR
 Kim, Peter Chung, Killeen, TX
 Kirk, Margaret C., Columbus, OH
 Kiser, Bobby O., Claremore, OK
 Knutsen, Barbara A., Shannon, NC
 Koepke, Janet J., Bellevue, WA
 Kohl, Allen V., Roscoe, IL
 Kramer, Edwin J., Modesto, CA
 Kreunen, Adam C., Severn, MD
 Krimmer, Joseph J., Oxford, PA
 Kroenke, Edith M., Tampa, FL
 Kube, Alfred L., Pendleton, OR
 Kucker, Robert W., Buna, TX
 Kwon, Oh Joon, Norwalk, CA
 Kyllonen, David A., Mechanicsburg, PA
 Lacey, Donald R., Buffalo, NY
 Lackey, John W., Costa Mesa, CA
 Ladd, Harold M., Stroudsburg, PA
 Lamphere, Arlette L., Sammamish, WA
 Lance, Charles J., Perryville, MO
 Lanphier, Larry W., Longview, TX
 Lansford, Carroll D., Highlands, TX
 LaPointe, De Wayne E., Ocean Park, WA
 Larson, Gerald G., Belgrade, MT
 Lash, Neil A., Tamarac, FL
 Lasley, William F., Peoria, AZ
 Laughlin, Gloria, Montgomery, TX
 Lavigne, Paul A., Jefferson, NH
 Lawson, Gordon L., Middletown, OH
 Lazar, Thomas, Wilmington, NC
 Leach, Carol M., Port Crane, NY
 Leatherwood, Ralph E., Houston, TX
 Ledbetter, Wilma L., Yukon, OK
 Lee, Jaesun, Seal Beach, CA
 Leid, Harry L., Oakland, CA
 Lewis, B. W., Lufkin, TX
 Litterst, Robert K., Midlothian, VA
 Little, Betty J., Humble, TX
 Little, Jack E., Scottsdale, AZ
 Livesay, Franklin H., Morristown, TN
 Locklear, George A., Saint Pauls, NC
 Logsdon, Jeanie, Rineyville, KY
 Lohmann, Alan J., Poplar Bluff, MO
 Looper, John C., Tulsa, OK
 Lopez, Miguel A., Bayamon, PR
 LoPue, Philip, Brentwood, NY
 Lourance, William V., Ash Grove, MO
 Louton, Deann S., Hot Springs, AR
 Lowe, Corwin G., Appleton, WI
 Loyd, Azle F., Bunch, OK
 Luker, Ulus, Phenix City, AL
 Luna, Domingo, Lockney, TX
 Lund, Gale E., Clay Center, KS
 Lunde, Craig A., Salem, OR
 Lundmark, Daniel E., Northampton, PA
 Lyons, Lonnie L., Rochester, MN
 Mace, Irmingard M. G., Copperas Cove, TX
 Mageo, Tony T., Vista, CA
 Mangual-Rivera, Norma, Moca, PR
 Marcink, William H., Battlefield, MO
 Marr, B. Wayne, Vernonia, OR
 Marrone, Elmer E., Prior Lake, MN
 Marsach, Abraham, West Haven, CT
 Marte-Martinez, Mercedes, Dorchester, MA
 Martin, Billy R., Guymon, OK
 Martin, Doug B., Muldrow, OK
 Martin, Jackie D., Tulsa, OK
 Martin, William W., Ellenton, FL
 Martinez, Charles, Rialto, CA
 Martinez, Miguel A., West Palm Beach, FL
 Martinez, Norman, Port Charlotte, FL
 Martinez, Thomas M., Sacramento, CA
 Maser, Helen E., Bothell, WA
 Massey, Darrell D., Independence, MO
 Massey, N. James, Grants Pass, OR
 Mathes Sr., Robert L., Alton, IL
 Mathis, L. Wesley, Palm Bay, FL
 Maves, Charles J., Springfield, MO
 Mayo, Samuel A., Snellville, GA
 Mazzie, Frank, Jacksonville, FL
 McBride, Carrol A., Lewisville, TX
 McCabe, Andrew M., Springfield, MO
 McCarthy, Marvin T., Brooksville, FL
 McCarty, James D., South Charleston, OH

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

McClellan, Thomas T., Freeport, IL
McCloskey, Wayne E., Goodwater, AL
McClung, Glen D., Malvern, AR
McCorkle, R. Aneice, Houston, TX
McCullough, Jack R., Walnut Hill, FL
McDaniel, Wayne G., Carthage, MO
McDearmid, Andrew M., Virginia Beach, VA
McDuff Jr., John, Pasadena, TX
McElhannon, James R., Jonesboro, AR
McGinnis, Steven J., Ashland, WI
McHatton, Dennis P., Riverton, IL
McKellar, Jerry M., Linden, TX
McKinney Sr., Gene A., Hawkinsville, GA
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CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 1–4, 2019

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 worshipped 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 privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity,

CONSTITUTION

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; Philippians 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; Philippians 2:9–11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

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 endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1–31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12–17; 10:44–46; 11:14–16; 15:7–9). With the baptism in the Holy 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 worshipped 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 fifteen (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 sixty (60) days after the date of election, and shall continue for four (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 four (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 fifteen (15) other persons to bring the number to twenty-one (21). The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin sixty (60) days after date of election and shall continue for four (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 one hundred (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 forty (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 one-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 sixty (60) years and (2) have served on the General Presbytery

for twenty (20) years or more, or served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer or executive presbyter for eight (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. District councils may also be known as networks or other nomenclature adopted by its council in session.

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 twenty (20) persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than twenty (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, 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 (four-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 Agreement and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after

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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 six (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 thirty (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 1–4, 2019

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 fifteen (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 fifteen (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 10 percent of the votes cast by the General Presbytery. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 10 percent of the votes cast 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. 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.

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 eleven (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 areas as follows:

Northwest Area
Southwest Area
North Central Area
South Central Area
Great Lakes Area
Gulf Area
Northeast Area
Southeast Area
Language Area—East Spanish
Language Area—West Spanish
Language Area—Other

The addition of new areas and the assignment of individual districts to areas shall be determined by the General Presbytery in session, and reported to the General Council in a timely manner.

(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 forty (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 ordained African-American minister. From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under forty (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 forty (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 forty (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 forty (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 one-year term one ordained minister under forty (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.

(3) *Additional representation.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the offices of nonresident additional representatives [see Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, c, (2), (c)], the General Council Executive Presbytery shall submit up to four nominees for the vacant position. The nominees shall be selected with due consideration given to those who have been nominated in the past for those positions and who would yet qualify. The General Presbytery shall, by regular or electronic mail referendum or 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 office 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.
- 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 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

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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.

l. Protect and enhance the vision of the general superintendent and other executive officers.

m. Provide oversight of internal operations of the national office as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. Oversight includes:

(1) Approve *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*;

(2) Review and approve official minutes of the Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery meetings;

(3) Speak into the conceptual phases of new national office initiatives;

(4) Provide evaluative perspective and input regarding national office effectiveness;

(5) Ratify the hiring of national office employees at national department director levels and above;

(6) Regularly review General Council financial statements and audit reports;

(7) Approve the annual national office budget;

(8) Delegate to the Executive Leadership Team specific responsibilities, as needed, related to the functioning and management of the national office;

(9) Make or ratify appointments to boards, committees, and commissions as required;

(10) Monitor and resource the well-being of the general superintendent and other Executive Leadership Team members.

n. Assist with the mediation of district and church issues, as well as providing a resourcing and referral service for legal and administrative matters to the Fellowship.

o. Pray for and maintain communication with those who serve as primary leaders in the areas represented by each executive presbyter;

p. Serve as spiritual elders in counsel with and ministry to the general superintendent and other members of the Executive Leadership Team;

q. Pray for and monitor, with the Executive Leadership Team, the spiritual health and vitality of the General Council and the national office;

r. Serve as spiritual partners in the advancement of the mission of districts and ministry networks throughout the Fellowship through prayer, consultation, and collaboration regarding best practices;

s. Serve as the General Council Credentials Committee, strongly advocating for aspects of Assemblies of God doctrine and support for its missionary initiatives;

t. Provide an annual self-assessment based on the roles, relationships, and responsibilities of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery.

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 general superintendent and the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at the national office.
- c. Execute those matters delegated to it by the general superintendent and 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 office as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.
- h. Present an annual self-assessment based on roles, relationships, and responsibilities of the Executive Leadership Team to the Executive Presbytery.

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 of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of not less than seven general presbyters shall be comprised as follows: one executive presbyter acting as a liaison to the committee, three district superintendents—two from geographic areas and one from a language/ethnic area—and four general presbyters who are lead pastors. They shall be appointed every four years, coinciding with the full-term election year of the general superintendent, by the Executive Presbytery to review such salaries. The committee shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action. An outside firm will be consulted. In years when there is not a general superintendent election, the elected officers will receive the same percentage annual wage adjustment (AWA) as all other national office employees.
- e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery whenever 10 percent (10%) 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.
- g. Establish and review position descriptions of the Executive Presbytery.
- h. Review the Executive Presbytery annual self-assessment report.

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 one hundred (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 thirty (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 Doctrines and Practices 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 and Discipleship Committee

A Spiritual Life and Discipleship Committee may be appointed at the discretion of the general superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery. Said committee members shall be selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function with duties as assigned by the general superintendent and report at his or her direction.

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 two (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 forty (40) Assemblies of God churches (of which at least 50 percent (50%) are General Council affiliated status) 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 recognized by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the churches as to membership (assessing both total membership and regular attendance), leadership, and program ministries.

(3) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the proposed district, its potential for leadership, and its ability to sustain support and program ministries to its churches.

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

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

(6) 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 relates to district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and disciplines 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 registered for district meetings and meet the district's requirements for participation in that meeting.

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 forty (40) Assemblies of God churches [of which at least 50 percent (50%) are General Council affiliated status] and meet all other guidelines established in Article V, Section 1.

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 twenty (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, the following procedure shall be followed:

(1) The pastor or board of the church considering transfer shall make initial contact with the district superintendent to which the church presently belongs. There shall be opportunity for mutual dialogue with the district superintendent and district leadership as to the advisability of the transfer.

(2) If the pastor or board of the church desires to pursue the possibility of transfer, following the initial contact and dialogue noted above, the pastor or board of the church may then contact the superintendent of the district to which they desire to transfer.

(3) If the leadership of both districts agrees with the desire of the pastor or board of the church to transfer from one district to another, then a congregational meeting of the church membership shall be held. A transfer shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

(4) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs is not in favor of the transfer but the receiving district is, the leadership of the present district shall be given an opportunity to present its case before the membership of the church at a congregational meeting. The church membership may then proceed to vote, with a two-thirds vote required for a transfer to be approved.

(5) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs, after a favorable vote by the church membership, still does not wish to approve the transfer, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery for a final decision in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

(6) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs is in favor of the transfer, after a favorable vote by the church membership, but the receiving district is not in favor of the transfer, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery for a final decision in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

(7) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to authorize the credential transfer of ministers serving the transferring church to the district in which the church is transferred.

(8) Churches seeking a transfer to another district must settle their financial obligations with their present district before a transfer is granted.

Section 7. Dissolution of District

a. Loss of recognition. In the event an existing district shall have less than forty (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 twenty (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 six (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 office. It is expected that the national office 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 (30%) of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than thirty (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 provide organizational assistance to the church 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 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 nontransferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to two (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.

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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.

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, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee or permitted by General Presbytery policy; 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), or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5-9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; Ephesians 5), 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

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 nontransferable (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 two (2) years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of sixty-five (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 one (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 three-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 twenty-three (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 two (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 one (1) year. Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for two (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 two (2) full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least one (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

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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. 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.

Section 7. Senior-Retired Ministers

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, the term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

a. Application for retired category. 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.

b. Guidelines

(1) *Reports.* Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated annual report to maintain a correct mailing address.

(2) *Designation in publications.* Senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers*.

(3) *Support of General Council national office.* Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

c. 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 ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of sixty-five (65) in the case of an ordained minister, or sixty (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.

d. 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 directory, 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 directory, 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).]

(4) *Appeal of credential affiliation.* If an agreement cannot be achieved between districts as to the credential affiliation of ministers involved in transdistrict ministry,

one or both districts 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).

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 twenty-five dollars (\$25) per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and ten dollars (\$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 (10%) 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 (25%) of their tithe to their member district where they serve and 25 percent (25%) 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 (50%) 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 sixty (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 office.
- (2) Those who have attained the age of sixty (60) and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of sixty-five (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:

(1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.

(2) A course on the history and polity of the 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 provided the credential holder is serving as a pastor or staff member of a church in the district that the credential holder desires to transfer to. In instances where the credential holder is not a pastor or staff member of a church in the district to which the credential holder is transferring, both districts shall agree to the transfer. Credential holders must settle their district financial obligations before transfers are granted. The credential holder shall have a right of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee in the event either district recommends denial of the transfer.

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 fifty dollars (\$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 one hundred dollars (\$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 six (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 one hundred dollars (\$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 Office. 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, or disseminated electronically to ministers only.

(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 as resigned in the ministers letter or disseminated electronically to ministers only.

b. On the initiative of the district. (See Article X, Section 4.)

Not renewed. If in the opinion of the credentials committee 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 or disseminated electronically to ministers only.

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 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 Bylaws 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 DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES

a. Authorization and purpose. A Commission on Doctrines and Practices 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 ten (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 four (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 one thousand-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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5).

(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 remarriage 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 (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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5). (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.

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 Courtesy

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.

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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 accreditations 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.

Section 14. Substance Usage

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the use of substances, such as but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs, that are harmful to the body or mind, or that detract from a Christian's testimony, or that are a cause of stumbling to others, or that impair good judgment.

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 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 qualifications for ministry

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as described in Article VII of the General Council Bylaws. 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 courtesy (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 seven (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 ninety (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 three-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

b. **Outside the 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 one (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 two (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 print or electronically 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 thirty (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, and 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 thirty (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, in print or electronically, 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 thirty (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 one (1) year, except it shall be two (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 one-hundred-dollar (\$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 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 four (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 four-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. Seven percent (7%) 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 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, U.S.A.* 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.

(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

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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 (5%) 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, U.S.A.

All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute 5 percent (5%) of all group revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

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
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.