

1943

# Constitution and Bylaws



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*Bartlett Peterson*

Bartlett Peterson  
General Secretary

GENERAL COUNCIL  
of the  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

# **Constitution and Bylaws**



GENERAL COUNCIL  
of the  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

**The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.**  
**General Offices: 336 West Pacific Street**  
**Springfield, Missouri**

**OFFICERS**

Ernest S. Williams .....General Superintendent.  
Ralph M. Riggs .....Assistant General Superintendent  
J. Roswell Flower .....General Secretary-Treasurer  
Noel Perkin .....Missionary Secretary  
Stanley H. Frodsham .....Editor, Pentecostal Evangel

**EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS**

Ernest S. Williams, Ralph M. Riggs, J. Roswell Flower,  
Noel Perkin, W. I. Evans, S. H. Frodsham, J. N.  
Gortner, Wesley R. Steelberg, Aaron A. Wilson

**Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to September 2-7, 1943**

**CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION**

Whereas, It is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall 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 corner stone; and

Whereas, The members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and

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

Resolved, That we recognize ourselves as a co-operative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal Assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States and foreign lands, to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose purpose is not to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their Scriptural and local rights and privileges, but to recognize and promote Scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work and business for God; and to disapprove un-Scriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:13.

**ARTICLE I. NAME.**

The name shall be, The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## ARTICLE II. NATURE.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a co-operative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership.

## ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES.

1. To approve all Scriptural teaching, methods and conduct; and to disapprove un-Scriptural teachings, methods and conduct.

2. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.

3. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.

4. 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.

5. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of, such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

## ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall represent as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, co-operation and equality. Its purpose is to maintain conditions under which it can, as a fellowship, demonstrate these principles and their consequent development.

## ARTICLE V.

### STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS.

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Hence this Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended as a basis of fellowship among us (i. e., that we all speak the same thing. 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The human phraseology employed in such statement is not inspired nor 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 truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.

#### 1. The Scriptures Inspired.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is

superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason. 2 Tim. 3:15, 16; 1 Peter 2:2.

#### 2. The One True God.

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealed "I AM"; and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association, i. e., as Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10, 11; Matt. 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, Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. Luke 1:35; 1 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3, 4.

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

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost 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; Zech. 14:9.

#### (d) Identity and Co-operation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to co-operation. 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 Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, co-operation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. John 5:17-30, 32, 37.

#### (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 Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. Rom. 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. Matt. 1:23; 1 John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 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. Matt. 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 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; 8:57, 58; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 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 Ghost 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. Heb. 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; 1 Cor. 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 Ghost 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; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8, 9; Rev. 7:9, 10; 4:8-11.

**3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.**

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." But man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God. Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21.

**4. The Salvation of Man.**

a. **Conditions to Salvation.**

The grace of God, which bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, and being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 2:11; Rom. 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7.

b. **The Evidences of Salvation.**

The inward evidence, to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit. Rom. 8:16. The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

**5. Baptism in Water.**

The ordinance of Baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Saviour and Lord. In so doing, they have the body washed in pure water as an outward symbol of cleansing, while their heart has already been sprinkled with the blood of Christ as an inner cleansing. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4; Acts 20:21; Heb. 10:22.

**6. The Lord's Supper.**

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 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "until He comes."

**7. The Promise of the Father.**

All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect, and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31. This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. Acts 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9.

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

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

**9. Entire Sanctification.**

The Scriptures teach a life of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in

obedience to God's Word. Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15,16; 1 Thess. 5:23,24; 1 John 2:6.

#### **10. The Church.**

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 First-born, which are written in heaven. Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23.

#### **11. The Ministry and Evangelism.**

A divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a twofold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world, and (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ. Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-13.

#### **12. Divine Healing.**

Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16,17.

#### **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 Thess. 4:16,17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51,52.

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

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on the earth is the Scriptural promise and the world's hope. 2 Thess. 1:7; Rev. 19:11-14; Rom. 11:26,27; Rev. 20:1-7.

#### **15. The Lake of Fire.**

The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15.

#### **16. The New Heavens and 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 and District Councils.

### **ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP.**

The membership of the General Council shall consist of all ordained ministers, and missionaries under appointment for foreign service, holding accredited fellowship certificates, and such representatives as may be chosen by the assemblies affiliated with us, each assembly being entitled to one lay delegate.

### **ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS.**

1. Regular sessions of the General Council shall be held biennially, pursuant to a call by the Executive Presbytery.
2. Special sessions of the General Council may be arranged by the Executive Presbytery if agreed by a majority of the General Presbyters.
3. The right of initiative in the matter of calling of special sessions shall be granted to any ordained minister of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reasons for a special session of the Council, signed by not less than fifteen ordained ministers, may be considered sufficient reason for the call of a special session, such statement to be filed with the Executive Presbytery, who may, if it shall be deemed advisable, respond to the summons and issue the call for a special session.

### **ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS.**

#### **1. Executive Officers.**

The officers shall consist of the General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, and General Secretary, together with such other officers as may be required in the future. Their term of office shall be for two years and shall begin three months after the date of election.

#### **2. Executive Presbytery.**

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, and General Secretary, together with six other brethren to be chosen from the active fellowship, six of these brethren to be resident and three to be nonresident at headquarters.

#### **3. General Presbytery.**

The General Presbytery shall be composed of representative men of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective fields. Each District shall have the privilege of representation in the General Presbytery by three members, the District

Superintendent together with two others who shall be elected annually at its District Council meeting and who shall take office immediately subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

(Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who for years have been highly esteemed among us as General Presbyters, and yet who, because of age or infirmity can no longer assume the full burden of the office. The addition of such honorary members shall not disturb the regular number of Presbyters granted each District.)

#### **ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS.**

Membership of the District Council shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers of the district, and such delegates as may be elected by assemblies to represent them in the meetings of the District Council. Such delegates shall be elected according to an agreed upon basis of representation, arranged by the Council.

The District Council shall have supervision over all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except such as are agreed upon by a District Council and the General Council officials.

The District Council shall have authority to examine and to license and ordain ministers who are to become members thereof, and shall report to the office of the General Council the names of all approved licentiates.

The District Council, being the creature of the General Council and subordinate thereto, cannot be authorized, in any way, to violate the principles of the General Council constitutional agreements or its bylaws.

The District Council shall elect its own officers, and arrange for its own meetings. It shall be amenable to the General Council in matters of doctrine, and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have the District endorsement.

#### **ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES.**

All true Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies, and accepting their full personal share of responsibility for the maintenance of Scriptural order in the local body, shall have a standard for membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself, or by agreement with the District Council.

Local assemblies shall be set in order and co-operate

in the work of the District. They should support the District organization and may send delegates to the District and General Councils.

We recognize that each local 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 Bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property in its own right, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.

The fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of the District or General Council shall in nowise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The local assembly shall recognize that the District or General Council has the right to approve Scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove un-Scriptural doctrine or conduct. When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the District Council for help. It may appeal from a decision by the District Council to the General Council where it may be questioned whether or not there has been proper help from the District.

Local assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise, and to plan for regular contributions to its support.

#### **ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS.**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the General Council, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing to every District for their consideration prior to the General Council meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all members present for adoption.

#### **BYLAWS**

##### **ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER.**

In order to expedite the work of the Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the Council shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

##### **ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

###### **Section 1. Officers.**

The officers of the General Council except as hereinafter



provided shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided. They shall be chosen from the membership of the General Council, and shall be men of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

## **Section 2. Nomination and Election.**

a. All candidates for office of General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, and General Secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after the third 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. Election of General Presbyters shall take place annually at the District Council meeting.

c. The General Presbytery shall have the right to elect resident officers at headquarters to serve on the Executive Presbytery as provided for in Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution. The nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery shall be nominated from the floor and shall be elected by a two-thirds vote in the same manner as provided for the presiding officers of the General Council.

d. The Treasurer and Missionary Secretary of the General Council, Editor of the Pentecostal Evangel, President and Principal of Central Bible Institute, and other departmental heads shall be chosen by the General Presbytery. They shall be subordinate to the Executive Presbytery and amenable thereto for the proper discharge of their duties.

## **Section 3. Vacancies.**

a. In the event any of the executive offices of the General Council shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill such office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council (except the office of the General Superintendent, which office will be filled automatically by the Assistant General Superintendent).

b. In the event a General Presbyter shall move to another District or shall vacate his 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 election.

## **Section 4. Voting Constituency.**

The voting constituency shall consist of all accredited members, present and registered. Voting privileges may also be extended to accredited licentiates who may be in attendance, at the discretion of the General Council.

# **ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS.**

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

a. To preside at the meetings of the Council.

b. To be the head of the General Office, and to supervise all the work of that office during the interim between sessions of the General Council. To act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.

c. To preside at all meetings of the Credentials Committee, and to sign all credentials.

d. To preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery, and to receive all communications directed to that body.

e. To be general superintendent of all work on the field conducted in behalf of the fellowship, and to encourage Bible and Missionary Conventions throughout the country.

f. To administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Credentials Committee.

g. To perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council or by the Executive Presbytery.

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

a. To assist the General Superintendent.

b. To preside at meetings in the absence of the General Superintendent.

c. To assist the General Superintendent in the general superintendence of the work on the field conducted in behalf of the General Council and its work, and to encourage Bible and Missionary Conventions throughout the country.

d. Finally, to perform any other functions under the supervision of the General Superintendent, or such as may be directed by this Council or by the Executive Presbytery.

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

a. The General Secretary shall 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. He shall be custodian of the official seal of the Council



and shall issue Credentials under the direction of the Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ministers, licentiates and assemblies in the fellowship.

c. He shall act as Secretary of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, and shall keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.

d. He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.

e. He shall act as Secretary of the Credentials Committee and shall be considered as ex officio member of all other committees.

#### **Section 4. Duties of the Missionary Secretary.**

a. To act as head of the Missions Department under the supervision of the Missionary Committee.

b. To keep a record of all decisions of the Missionary Committee and of all official acts of the Missions Department.

c. To conduct all correspondence with prospective Missionaries and with those already out on the field.

d. To conduct the Missionary columns in the Pentecostal Evangel from missionary letters and reports.

e. To represent the General Council in all relationships with governments or authorities where our Missionary work is involved.

f. To direct the Missionary activities of the fellowship under the supervision of the Missionary Committee.

g. To distribute all Missionary funds as directed by the donors or by the Missionary Committee.

h. To keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.

i. To acknowledge in the Pentecostal Evangel all funds received for Missionary work.

j. To conduct all correspondence.

k. To act as purchasing agent for Missionary supplies under the supervision of the Missionary Committee.

l. To perform such other functions as may be directed by the Missionary Committee.

#### **Section 5. Duties of the Treasurer.**

a. To be custodian of all General Council funds.

b. He shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and

disbursements, conducting the work of his office according to accepted business methods.

c. He shall give a report from time to time as may be requested by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.

d. He shall give bond to the amount of \$10,000. The Treasurer's books shall be audited by outside public audit once a year.

e. He shall perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as may be directed by the Council or the Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 6. Duties of the Executive Presbytery.**

a. The Executive Presbytery shall act as trustees of the General Council. It shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight of all departments; to acquire such properties as may be needed for the work of the General Council, or to dispose of the same when no longer needed; to hold in trust such funds as may be committed to it as trustee, and to dispose of the same in accordance with the wishes of the donor. It shall be authorized to issue annuity bonds and to protect the same by judicious investments. It shall be authorized to purchase or to dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the General Council fellowship. It shall be authorized to act for the fellowship in all matters that affect its interests while the General Council is not in session, and shall make a report to the General Council of its activities in behalf of the fellowship as may be directed. It shall provide for its own meetings and its decisions shall be final, subject to the approval of the General Council.

b. In all matters of great importance, the Executive Presbytery shall communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before any final action shall be taken.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to 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 its hands.

d. The Executive Presbytery shall also at its discretion call annual business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.

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

a. The General Presbytery shall be empowered to act in all matters pertaining to foreign missionary and ministerial

relationships, and all matters which pertain to the proper functioning of the departments and institutions in the fellowship. It shall constitute an advisory body to the Executive Presbytery. All decisions pertaining to constitutional order or fundamental doctrines shall be referred by it to the General Council for ratification in the manner provided in the General Council Constitution.

b. The General Presbytery shall also act as a Court of Appeal for the reviewing of testimony given in missionary and ministerial trials. Its decisions shall be final.

#### **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES.**

##### **Section 1. Standing Committees.**

Standing committees shall be established or appointed as necessity may indicate. They shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Executive Presbytery, and the term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the General Council, unless otherwise instructed by the Council.

##### **Section 2. Credentials Committee.**

Such members of the Executive Presbytery as may reside at headquarters shall constitute a Credentials Committee. They shall have authority to issue certificates of ordination to approved ministers, who have District Council endorsement, and to issue annual fellowship certificates.

##### **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 responsibility of examining all credentials and recognition of all delegates. Ordained ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship certificates 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. Suitable badges shall be issued by the Committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, such badges to indicate the classification of ordained ministers, foreign missionaries, District licentiates, lay delegates from assemblies, visitors, etc.

The Roster shall be open for enrollment during the entire meeting of the General Council, and the Roster Committee shall render such reports as may be called for by the action of the Council.

##### **Section 4. Special Committees.**

Special committees may be created at the General Council in session, or by the Executive Presbytery between sessions as may be required to facilitate its work.

#### **ARTICLE V. DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES.**

In the event that Districts fail to reach an agreement relative to boundary lines, the Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall be authorized to set such lines, and said Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to create new Districts when and where deemed advisable, it being understood that the brethren who may be occupying such territory as new Districts are to be formed in, be consulted and their wishes given due consideration.

#### **ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY.**

##### **Section 1. Ministry Described.**

Elders who are persons of mature experience and qualifications, able to undertake the responsibilities of the full-gospel ministry.

Licentiates who are beginners; who give evidence of being called of God; and who devote themselves to a purpose to become elders. 1 Tim. 3:10-13.

Women may be ordained in any degree except eldership and be licensed to preach as provided for men.

##### **Section 2. Qualifications.**

Qualifications for recognition as an elder must be in accord with the New Testament scriptures, which provide the necessary guidance in the matter of such recognition. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9.

Qualifications for licentiates shall be:

First: Clear evidence of a divine call; a practical experience in preaching; together with an evident purpose to devote their time to preaching the gospel.

Second: Conformity to such provisions as are made for them by the General Council in reading courses and other training.

##### **Section 3. License to Preach.**

Licenses to preach shall be granted by the District Council to properly qualified applicants.

#### **Section 4. Ordinations.**

a. Requirements.—Applicants for ordination who shall have met the necessary requirements shall appear before the District Council within the boundaries of which they reside. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the District Council. No minister shall be ordained to the office of an elder until he shall have held a license to preach and shall have been engaged in the active work of the ministry as a pastor or evangelist at least two full consecutive years.

b. Ordination of Women.—The Scriptures plainly teach that while there is a difference between the ministry of men and of women in the church, that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word. Women who may have demonstrated a distinct ministry of evangelism and who have met the requirements of District Councils may be licensed to preach the Word. Matured women of not less than twenty-five years of age who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally and who have proved their qualifications in actual service and who have met all the requirements of the Credentials Committees of the District Councils may be ordained to the ministry of the gospel and may serve either as evangelists or as pastors as their qualifications warrant. The right to administer the ordinances of the church, when such acts are necessary, shall be included in the ordination.

#### **Section 5. Exceptions.**

a. It is recommended that our District Councils refrain from ordaining to the ministry any preacher who may have been licensed in another District until such licentiate shall have resided in the District in which he is seeking ordination at least one year and shall have met the requirements of the District granting him license, and until endorsement be secured from the officary of the District in which the candidate was previously licensed.

b. Since divorced and remarried persons in the ministry usually cause stumbling, reproach and division, whatever may have been the cause of divorce, we disapprove of District Councils ordaining or licensing to the gospel ministry those who have remarried and are now living in a state of matrimony while former companions are living. Ezek. 44:22.

#### **Section 6. Certificates.**

Ordination papers with the accompanying fellowship cer-

tificates shall be issued by the General Council Credentials Committee from the Executive office.

Fellowship Certificates are renewable annually and are valid only until September 1 of each year.

#### **Section 7. Expiration of Fellowship Certificates.**

Inasmuch as all fellowship certificates expire on the 31st day of August of each year, all who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before October 1st, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquents whose names shall not appear on the ministerial list to be mailed to the clergy bureaus.

#### **Section 8. Official List.**

a. An official list of all ordained ministers shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of the General Council and published for the convenience of all concerned. The list shall show whether or not each minister is giving full time to his or her ministry. This official list shall be revised annually, and shall include only the names of those ministers to whom certificates of fellowship have been issued for the current year.

b. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry and who cease to engage in either pastoral or evangelistic work for a period of one year or more shall be expected to notify the office of the General Secretary, who shall be authorized to remove and to place it upon an inactive list. Should the minister at any time return to an active ministry in either pastoral or evangelistic service, his or her name can be restored to the active list upon a simple application for reinstatement, bearing the endorsement of the District Officiary.

#### **Section 9. Ministerial Relation.**

All ministers, both ordained and licensed, shall be amenable to both the District and General Councils in matters of doctrine and conduct.

All ministers, ordained and licensed, shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries of which they reside, and to work in co-operation with the same. They shall be expected to co-operate with other District Councils in which they may labor temporarily.

#### **Section 10. Certificate of Transfer.**

A certificate of transfer shall be issued by the District Council for all ministers who are leaving their home District to locate permanently in another district.

### **Section 11. Affiliating With Other Organizations.**

When any of our ministers shall identify themselves with other organizations granting ministerial credentials and shall have received such credentials, we shall regard their affiliation with this body as having ceased, and they shall be requested to return to headquarters the credentials issued by our Executive Office.

### **Section 12. Withdrawal and Reinstatement of Ministers.**

a. In the event of the announced desire of a minister to withdraw from our fellowship, before action shall have been taken in the matter by the Credentials Committee or the Executive Presbyters, due investigation shall be made as to the standing of this minister in the District of his affiliation. In case the evidence gathered shall warrant action then the minister shall be advised of the finding of the Credentials Committee, and shall be dropped from the fellowship. In the event the minister asks for a trial, the regular provisions made for trials shall be adhered to in the disposing of the case, and upon conviction, his name shall be published as "dropped" instead of "withdrawn." All information pertaining to the minister, so gathered, shall be preserved in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee for future reference.

b. When a minister connected with our fellowship shall have been dropped from our rolls or shall have ceased to be connected with us by virtue of having become identified with another organization, or for any other cause, and shall apply to be reinstated, he shall in no case be eligible for reinstatement until at least six months shall have elapsed after he has been removed from our list of ministers. The Credentials Committee of the General Council may also hold the matter in abeyance until the next session of the General Council in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister shall be left entirely with that body.

c. Applications for reinstatement may be made through the District Council within which territory his residence may be found, but the application will be considered subject to the approval of the District in which the former action was taken.

### **Section 13. Discipline of Members.**

Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who are affiliated with us who for some

reason seem to have reached the place where, in the estimation of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. It is obvious that the Credentials Committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them to the headquarters office for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend that the headquarters office recall the credentials. General inefficiency in the ministry, a failure or inability to correctly represent our Pentecostal testimony, a record of assembly breaking instead of making, a contentious, non-co-operative spirit, a declared open change in doctrinal views, a habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause, a marriage in opposition to our constitutional stand on marriage and divorce, etc., may give cause for the action of the Credentials Committee.

Both the officary of the District Council and the Credentials Committee of the General Council shall be recognized as having the right of initiative in this matter. If, after repeated counsel and warnings, there has been no change of character or attitude on the part of the minister, the officary of the District Council may recommend to the Credentials Committee of the General Council that fellowship be withheld, or that his fellowship certificate be not renewed, or that his name be dropped from the official list of ministers of the General Council.

Such recommendation shall set forth in writing satisfactory reasons for the action, and a copy of the recommendation shall be placed in the hands of the minister involved. If in the judgment of the Credentials Committee, the District officary was justified in the action taken, they shall be authorized to comply with the request of the District.

The right of initiative may be exercised by the Credentials Committee of the General Council in the event that complaints against a minister shall be filed with the committee affecting the character or conduct of the minister. Such complaints shall be referred to the District Officiary for investigation and such action as the revealed facts may warrant.

### **Section 14. Performing Marriage Ceremonies (Divorced Persons).**

We disapprove of any General Council minister performing a marriage ceremony for any who have been divorced and whose former companion is still living. We also warn that

any minister of our fellowship who performs such a ceremony, unless he is innocently deceived into doing the same, may be dismissed from the Council.

#### **Section 15. 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 private members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of an assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subjected to Scriptural treatment as an offender by the District Council, or if there be none, by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship Certificates and may be the basis of their recall.

#### **Section 16. Ministry in Non-Council Assemblies.**

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle of the church, the condition of growth and spiritual development and power in the apostolic body, it is essential that we recognize our vital relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian co-operation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work and business. Therefore we recommend that our evangelists and pastors consult with our Council officials before putting on a campaign with a non-Council assembly in any given city, so as to ascertain whether or not such non-Council assembly is approved as to doctrinal standards and co-operative fellowship with Council assemblies, and if not approved by the District officials, they shall be expected to not hold a campaign for them. Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censor or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

#### **Section 17. Attitude Toward Those Removed From Council Fellowship.**

Whereas, in our Constitutional Declaration we have included this prerogative, "To disapprove un-Scriptural methods,

doctrine, and conduct," and have provided adequate safeguards in the Bylaws by arranging for appeals from local and District decisions, thus guaranteeing fair and impartial consideration of all matters affecting standing, and fellowship; therefore, in order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline among the ministry and for the protection of our assemblies,

It is important that decisions arrived at after investigation and consideration of all facts by those qualified to act in such cases according to our co-operative agreements shall be by all considered just and final and that all ordained and licensed preachers refrain from taking any attitude toward such offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility.

In the event of a violation of this agreement the offender shall be subject to reprimand, or such other discipline as shall be agreed upon by the officary of the District with which he is affiliated. In the event that the agreement shall be violated outside of his District the officary of the District in which the offense is committed may communicate with the Secretary at headquarters, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the offending brother that a repetition of the offense will seriously affect his standing as a Council minister, and, if persisted in, may result in his suspension or severance from our fellowship.

#### **Section 18. Trials and Appeals.**

Both the officary of the District Council and the Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall be recognized as having the right of initiative in the trial of members. Trials shall be granted for willful violation of Council principles, wrong doctrine, or misconduct.

##### **a. Reports or Rumors of Misconduct.**

It shall be the duty of the District Officiary to investigate any report of misconduct on the part of a minister or missionary to determine its importance to the Council fellowship. Effort shall be made to determine the source of the report or rumor and the persons involved shall be interviewed with a view to arriving at the facts in the case and ascertaining the reasons underlying the persistence of the report.

##### **b. Charges.**

In case the report of misconduct appears to have foundation in fact and cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the District Officiary shall arrange

to have charges preferred by the original complainants, such charges to be made in writing and to describe fully every phase of the alleged misconduct. The charges shall be made in triplicate, one copy to be given the person whose conduct is under question, one copy to be retained by the District Superintendent, and one copy forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee at headquarters. If the alleged offense shall occur in any District other than the one in which the minister under question is a member, a copy of the charges shall also be filed with the Superintendent of the home District.

All charges made against a minister or missionary shall be signed by the person or persons making such charges of misconduct, provided, however, that when the District Officiary feel such should be made and no one appears to sign them, the members of the District Officiary making the investigation may prefer charges based upon the reports in their possession.

c. Preliminary Hearing.

The party whose character or ministry is in question shall have the right to a preliminary hearing before the District Officiary, and the result of such hearing shall determine whether or not the case should go to trial. No minister or missionary shall be adjudged guilty of misconduct upon the grounds of an unproven report or charge, but shall have the right to a fair and impartial trial before a tribunal made up of his or her brethren in the District, such trial to be conducted as hereinafter provided.

d. Notice of Trial.

Preceding the trial of any member of the General Council, good and sufficient notice shall be given the accused and sufficient time allowed to make all necessary arrangements for the trial. Such notice of trial shall be accompanied by the copy of charges in writing signed by the complaining parties or by the District Officiary as provided above. Such notice and charges shall be forwarded by the District Officiary only, and the minister shall be recognized as suspended and required to surrender his current fellowship certificate to be retained by the District Officiary until the case has been tried and judgment has been rendered.

The time and place for the trial shall be determined by the District Officiary, the convenience of the various participants to be fully considered in connection therewith. Trials

shall be held at a place convenient to the location where the facts in the case are available. In case the alleged offense occurs in a District to which a member does not belong, right of trial may be granted the District in which the alleged offense occurred, and shall be considered as providing the accused such rights and privileges as provided by the General Council.

No hearing shall be reported as a trial unless the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted by the General Council constitution; provided, however, an accused member may be disciplined as guilty of charges preferred, if he or she refuses to appear for trial, or proof is made that there has been on the part of the accused willful neglect to take advantage of his or her rights and privileges of trial in the case.

e. The Trial.

No one known to be prejudiced toward the case shall be considered qualified to serve as judge. He may be the District Superintendent or an Executive or General Presbyter. The jury shall be chosen by the presiding officer subject to agreement by both the District Officiary and the defendant. The jury shall be composed of not less than six or more than ten ordained ministers.

An ordained minister resident in the District in good standing in the General Council shall be chosen by the District Officiary to conduct the case for the District. The accused may conduct his or her own case, or may have the assistance of another ordained minister of good standing in his or her District who shall be recognized as counsel for the defense and shall be allowed to act within the limits of such capacity.

f. Report of Trial.

Provision shall be made by the District Officiary for making a stenographic record of the trial, and the accused may have an assistant to keep a record for the convenience of the defense. The record made by the District's stenographer shall be the official record and shall be kept on file in the District office for future reference. A certified copy of all such records shall be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee at headquarters and become a part of the records of the Executive office.

Trials shall be conducted in all fairness to all concerned, as becometh brethren in the ministry. No discourtesy to

any one is to be allowed. Counsel in the case must conduct the trial subject to the rulings of the presiding officer. When objections to such rulings are made, they may be written into the record, but the ruling shall stand for the trial.

g. Witnesses.

Witnesses shall be free to testify under the direction of counsel without interruption by others. Witnesses shall not be required to answer questions asked by others than the one presiding or the counsel who is at the time conducting the inquiry.

No undue influence or unfair means shall be allowed to affect the testimony of witnesses. Opportunity for cross-examination of witnesses shall be given as the case proceeds.

Accusation does not imply guilt, but may imply a misunderstanding or wrong information. It is, therefore, agreed that the purpose of the trial of a member of the Council is to arrive at all available facts relative to the case rather than the conviction of the accused.

h. Order of Trial.

The plaintiff side of the case, including all testimony intended to prove the charges made against the accused, shall be presented first. No testimony except such as refers to some part of the charges or has a helpful bearing on the case, shall be allowed.

Depositions taken by authorized persons may be used in place of personal testimony and shall become a part of the record of the trial. Such depositions must be signed by the witness and attested before two ordained ministers in good standing in the General Council.

i. The Defense.

The defense shall be allowed time and opportunity to present its side of the case and shall be granted all due respect and sympathy.

Defense testimony should be confined to disproving the charges and must not include countercharges against any, or offer the attitude or conduct of others as reason or excuse for the reported misconduct.

Reasonable opportunity shall be given for testimony as to the character of the accused, but such testimony shall not be accepted as proof that the charges upon which the trial is based are untrue.

When the defense has rested, the case may be reviewed by

counsel for both sides and testimony in rebuttal shall be allowed if deemed relevant by the one presiding.

Judgment in the case shall be rendered solely in accord with the testimony. The case shall be given to the group called to act as a jury with proper instructions by the one presiding over the trial. Such instruction shall be confined to setting forth the true basis of judgment in the case as represented by the evidence and shall in no wise seek to prejudice the jury. The verdict shall be reached by a two-thirds vote, and when rendered by the jury shall conclude the trial.

All trials shall be conducted within the District to which the minister belongs or in the District where the alleged offense occurred. In the case of missionaries, where there is no District Council, trial shall be arranged and conducted as authorized by the Missions Department.

j. Appeals.

Appeals from the decision of a District in matters affecting a member's standing in the Council fellowship as a result of trial may be made only upon the ground of mis-trial, that is, error in either arrangement for trial or method of conducting the same. Appeal shall be made to the Executive Presbytery at headquarters and notice of such appeal shall be made in writing addressed to the General Superintendent. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be given the District Superintendent, and such notice shall be given and appeal made within thirty days after the termination of the District trial.

k. Cases Appealed.

Appeal from the District trial cannot result in a retrial at headquarters. It shall be the duty of the Executive Presbytery to review the case, carefully examining the official record of trial furnished by the District. In case the Executive Presbytery shall find sufficient error in arranging for or conducting the trial in the District, it shall be the right of that body to which the appeal has been made to reverse the decision or the case may be referred back to the District, accompanied by findings of the Executive Presbytery, with instructions to the District Officer outlining proper procedure, and the case shall be retried in the District.

When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbyter, either by the accused member or by the District Officer, appeal may be taken to the General Pres-



bytery, procedure in such cases to conform to that in making appeal from the District trial to the Executive Presbytery.

Decisions of the General Presbytery in such cases shall be based upon the records of trial and review of the Executive Presbytery. No person or persons shall have the right to introduce testimony or new evidence at a review of a tried case. All such evidence or testimony must be presented in retrials by the District.

#### 1. New Trial.

In the event that after final decision has been rendered, new evidence is presented to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council which in their judgment is sufficient to warrant a new trial, such new trial shall be authorized.

### ARTICLE VII. MINISTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

#### Section 1. Applications for Assistance.

a. The Ministers' Benevolent Fund shall be available for needy ministers or their widows who have engaged in an active and approved ministry in the General Council fellowship for a period of ten or more years.

b. Applications for assistance will be considered only when the record of the applicant indicates that he or she has complied with the agreed upon financial plan of the District and the General Council.

c. All applications for assistance shall be made to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council, and must be accompanied by the endorsement of the District Officer.

d. The Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall receive all recommendations for assistance from District Councils, and shall investigate and approve all applications. They shall fix the monthly or other amounts of assistance, the length of time assistance may continue, etc., in consideration of the applicants' needs and the amount which may be justifiably available for such distribution.

#### Section 2. Plan for Creating Fund.

The following plans for obtaining the necessary moneys to sustain the Ministers' Benevolent Fund shall be followed:

a. Each Assembly in our fellowship is requested to take up an assembly freewill offering twice each year, advisedly during May and November, if suitable and convenient to the local assembly. If these months may not be convenient, others more convenient may be substituted.

b. Each Council minister is also requested to send in

to headquarters his own freewill offering for his needy fellow ministers twice each year at the times stated for assemblies.

c. Our entire Council fellowship and constituency is urged upon any fitting occasion and through the columns of our publications to interest kind friends in making special gifts and endowments to this fund.

### ARTICLE VIII. ASSEMBLIES.

#### Section 1. Membership Certificates.

The General Council office shall issue a membership certificate of proper proportions and script for framing to all churches coming into the fellowship.

#### Section 2. Government of U. S. A. Requirements.

Whereas, the government of the U. S. A. requires of headquarters a report periodically of the number of lay members of our assemblies, it is important that each assembly of our General Council fellowship keep an up-to-date record of its membership and that a record of same be sent annually to the office of the General Council Secretary.

#### Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies.

It is known that many unreliable and unsafe teachers and preachers go about seeking entrance into assemblies without any recommendation, therefore all pastors, workers and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding such not known to them, and the platform be denied strangers until proper recommendations be forthcoming.

The advice and counsel of the District Presbytery should be sought in such cases, and in all matters of importance when at all possible. Pastors and Presbyters should notify each other, reciprocally, as to such persons when any unreliability becomes manifest.

### ARTICLE IX. FOREIGN MISSIONS POLICY.

#### Section 1. Missionary Purpose.

a. The Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility, and do all within its power for the spread of the Gospel in foreign lands.

b. The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the Gospel has not been preached, as well as by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating native churches.

c. In fields where Pentecostal missionaries are already stationed, consultation shall be had with the brethren on the

field and the Missions Department, and a satisfactory plan agreed upon before an attempt shall be made to establish new stations in such localities.

d. Every assembly shall be encouraged to assume definite responsibility for full or partial support of one or more missionaries in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Department.

### **Section 2. Missions Department.**

a. The Missions Department shall consist of the Missionary Secretary and four others, appointed by the Superintendent subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, who together shall comprise the Missionary Committee. All the activities of the Missions Department shall be carried on under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery to which the Missions Department shall be amenable.

b. All the Missionary interests of our fellowship shall be consigned to the management of the Missions Department in co-operation with the District Council on the field.

### **Section 3. Support of Missions Department.**

The Missionary Secretary shall from time to time prepare and send to each pastor information setting forth the financial needs of the Missions Department that the efficient administration of the Department be not hindered through lack of funds. It is also requested that each pastor enlighten his assembly concerning the need of supporting the Missions Department, and an offering toward upkeep of this Department is recommended when sending missionary offerings.

### **Section 4. Missionary Candidates.**

a. The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the Missionary Committee.

b. The Missionary Committee shall be governed in its selection and appointment of missionaries by the following requirements. Each applicant shall be examined—

- (1) As to personal experience of full New Testament salvation.
- (2) As to a definite call to foreign work.
- (3) As to physical, mental and spiritual fitness for work.
- (4) As to Christian standing and general qualifications, it being required that each applicant seeking appointment first secure the endorsement of his local assembly and District Council.

- (5) Young men shall not be granted missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination in the homeland, and lady candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a similar probationary period of service in the homeland.

c. Prospective missionaries shall be expected to exercise faith in God to provide their outfit and fare to the field as far as practicable. However, the fitness of the candidate for foreign service will influence the decision of the committee more than the amount of funds pledged toward the applicant's support.

d. Funds provided for prospective missionaries who shall for any reason be prevented from going to the field shall be remitted to their respective donors unless by the consent of said donors they can be made available for other missionaries or missionary purposes.

e. All persons making application for appointment as missionaries shall be expected to meet the requirements of the Missions Department.

f. The Missions Department shall confine its missionary activities within the limits of its resources and shall not accept and send out missionaries until the condition of its finances fully warrant such action.

g. Each missionary shall be expected to devote two full years to language study, if necessary, before taking up his full active work. Courses of study with examinations shall be arranged by an advisory committee on each field. Failure on the part of any missionary to obtain a working knowledge of the language during his first term shall furnish ample ground upon which to question his fitness for a second term.

### **Section 5. Support of Missionaries.**

a. The undesignated funds sent to the Foreign Missions Department shall be distributed to those who have received the appointment of the Missionary Committee and are in harmony with our Statement of Fundamentals. All funds assigned to particular persons shall be forwarded by the Foreign Missions Department exactly as directed.

b. It is recommended that all missionaries send a report of moneys received and submit a budget of expenses to the Foreign Missions Department. It shall not be incumbent upon the Foreign Missions Department to send of its undesignated funds to missionaries who do not furnish such a report.

c. Missionaries expecting the endorsement and aid of the Foreign Missions Department shall report to the Missionary Committee and receive its approval before leaving this country. The Missionary Committee shall assume no responsibility whatever, where the foregoing requirements are not complied with. Funds designated for missionaries whose names do not appear on our list will be gladly forwarded by the Missions Department.

d. It is recommended that Districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume as far as is practicable responsibility for their support.

#### **Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries.**

The ordination of missionaries under appointment of the Missions Department shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

#### **Section 7. Fellowship Certificates.**

a. The Foreign Missions Department shall renew the Fellowship Certificates of all foreign missionaries in good standing on or before the first of the year without cost to the missionaries.

This requirement on the part of the Missions Department shall be contingent upon the missionary's filling out in ample time the questionnaire provided by the Department and sending same to the home office.

b. Each missionary shall file with the Foreign Missions Department a full statement regarding his work, e. g., concerning his family and accommodations, period of service, language qualifications, nature of work engaged in, prospects of the field, present number of recognized adherents, etc.

#### **Section 8. District Councils.**

a. District Councils shall be formed on the field where there are sufficient missionaries and trustworthy ordained native preachers, provided the approval of the Missions Department shall first have been secured. Where numbers are not sufficient to warrant the formation of a District Council, the missionary shall be amenable directly to the Foreign Missions Department.

b. It shall be considered the duty of the various District Councils on the foreign field to co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department in maintaining a high standard of Christian character and work in the interests of greater efficiency.

#### **Section 9. Property.**

a. All missionary property shall be held by the General Council wherever legally possible.

No funds shall be made available for missionary homes, stations, schools, etc., until adequate and proper safeguards, such as complying with the laws of the respective countries for the legal holding of property and such as establishing and maintaining a proper relationship between these missionary projects and the Foreign Missions Department, shall have been provided.

b. Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings should co-operate with the District Council on the field, and secure their endorsement before submitting their proposition to the Foreign Missions Department.

c. A copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all missionary properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to the Foreign Missions Department for file.

#### **Section 10. Native Workers.**

a. It is recommended that great care be exercised in the selection of native workers, and that no worker be engaged who does not manifest a real consecration to the cause of Christ.

b. No offerings for the support of native workers shall be sent direct to the natives, but to the missionary representatives of the General Council.

#### **Section 11. Furloughs.**

a. Missionaries while home on furlough shall be considered as on vacation. It will be expected, however, that they shall co-operate with the home office in the interests of the work as far as possible.

b. The period and frequency of furlough shall be governed by the recommendation of the District Council on the respective fields in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Department. It shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to grant a furlough allowance to missionaries who return to the homeland without first having an understanding with the District Council on the field.

c. When missionaries do not intend to return to the field or for any reason are not recommended for further service, it shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to continue their allowance for more than six months

after their return to their homeland, except in cases of ill health or because of the infirmities of age.

d. All missionaries who have arranged to return to the home field shall co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department where there is no District Council on the field, in making arrangements for a supply to take charge of their work or station and shall co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department in securing and forwarding funds for the maintenance of such work or station during their absence.

e. All missionaries who shall have completed a satisfactory term of service shall be eligible for reappointment for another term.

## **ARTICLE X. HOME MISSIONS.**

The fields everywhere are ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few. If we fail to speed up our program of home field evangelization the loss will be appalling. Our Lord's "Go ye" applies no less to the fields lying at our doors than to distant parts of the earth. We have the men and the means to accomplish at least twice as much as we are now doing, and the strengthening of the work at home is the only way we can enlarge our work abroad. The urgency of the command of our Lord, and the crying need everywhere will not permit us to be indifferent or inactive.

1. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to devise plans for opening up new work in neglected strategic points, as far as possible, and to consider the advisability of appointing such field workers as in their wisdom may be deemed necessary.

2. Each District Superintendent shall use all the available resources for evangelizing his own district.

3. So far as practicable each District Council shall raise funds and put one or more missionaries or evangelists to work in co-operation with the District Council, and the Council shall foster the new works started till such time as each may become able to support a pastor.

4. Each District Superintendent shall submit in writing to our Home Missions Department his policy for evangelization and field extension, or Home Missionary work being promoted in his district, and tell what activities have been recently put into execution in his district (for this purpose). These reports shall be used for the purpose of comparing

methods of labor and the discovery of the most practical ways of carrying on the work.

5. Every pastor should recognize his responsibility for the evangelization of his own parish and the regions contiguous to his city or town. He should make a careful survey of the needs and opportunities of his field and look in his own assembly for competent workers now idle who can be pushed out into needy fields. He should encourage the formation of Gospel Teams which can carry the gospel to outstations and destitute places, where Sunday schools and prayer meetings and street meetings should be held, and other Scriptural means be used for establishing and enlarging the work.

6. All our good evangelists should be kept busy in fields new and old, and the District Superintendents and pastors co-operate with them, so far as practicable.

## **ARTICLE XI. MEXICAN MISSIONS.**

### **Section 1**

The General Council shall recognize and encourage the Mexican Missions work carried on along the American border line and in Mexico.

### **Section 2**

The Missions Department, at the discretion of the Missionary Committee, shall appropriate a proportionate share of the undesignated funds for the Mexican work.

## **ARTICLE XII. EDUCATIONAL AND HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT.**

There shall be an Educational and Home Missions Department to work in co-operation and conjunction with the Foreign Missions Department. This department shall be financed by the Executive Presbytery out of such funds as may be available.

### **Section 1. Educational Secretary.**

a. The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint a Secretary for the Educational and Home Missions Department, who shall, by virtue of his office become a member of the Board of Directors of each school having General Council endorsement.

b. The General Council, through its Educational Secretary, shall have a voice in determining the standards of teaching and policy of management of all endorsed schools. He

shall be authorized to assist the schools in every way possible to maintain the highest plane of efficiency, and to seek to develop the school system as a whole.

c. He may use his influence to bring into existence our own textbooks, to assist the District Councils in developing reading courses for those who are unable to attend Bible schools, to help students after they leave school, and to represent our schools on the field.

## Section 2. Standards for School Endorsement.

Plans for the opening of new schools shall not be consummated until the sponsors have first submitted their proposition to the General Council Educational and Home Missions Department and have secured its endorsement in respect to the requirements as follows:

a. Location.—Schools receiving endorsement by the General Council must be strategically located.

b. Buildings and Equipment.—Endorsement will be given to schools providing buildings and equipment that afford proper appearance, comfort and convenience, and which have sanitary facilities and fire protection adequate to safeguard the health and safety of our young people. Such facilities must meet State and City health and fire protection ordinances.

c. Management and Ownership.—We recognize three classes of schools in our fellowship, viz., General Council schools (owned and controlled by the General Council), District Council schools (owned and controlled by District Councils), and privately owned and operated schools. District Council schools that meet other necessary requirements may receive General Council endorsement. Privately owned institutions should comply with Article XIV, Section 5 of the Bylaws before receiving District or General Council endorsement. A "properly constituted incorporated body" is interpreted to mean a corporation composed of responsible men from our fellowship who are elected or appointed either by the General or the District Council officer. The directorate of the school should be chosen in the same manner and the school controlled and managed by said directorate.

d. Faculty.—Faculty members should be chosen for their proven ability, character, spiritual experience and reputation for soundness in doctrinal belief. Too much caution cannot be exercised in the selection of faculty members.

e. Students.—It should be required of all applicants for admission to our schools that they give evidence of a definite born-again experience and an approved Christian character. It is preferred that they have also a definite conviction of heart of the call of God into His service.

A high-school education or its equivalent is sufficient intellectual qualification for admission, but applicants who have only a common, or grammar school, education may be admitted if, after examination, the Administration is satisfied with their fitness.

Sound physical health should also be required. If requested, a student should be able to present a physician's certificate of fitness to stand the period of intensive study.

f. Curriculum.—All schools receiving endorsement shall be amenable to the General Council through its Educational Department in doctrine and standard of teaching. Their required subjects, and hours of work should be harmonized with Central Bible Institute's subjects on the basis of a three years' course.

g. Practical Work.—Standard schools should have their program so arranged as to give opportunity for each student to have practical work at least once each week during the entire school year.

h. Discipline.—Endorsed schools must put forth the necessary effort to maintain the kind of order and discipline in the school that will be becoming to Christians and create wholesome respect for the institution.

i. Spiritual Life.—A Bible school should first of all be pervaded with the atmosphere of true spirituality and the presence of God. For this reason strongest emphasis is laid upon the spiritual life of the schools seeking for endorsement. Chapel service, mission prayer groups, students' missionary meetings, morning and evening quiet hours, etc., all serve to this end.

j. Food and Recreation.—All due precaution should be taken to care for the health of the student body by providing plenty of fresh air, light, water and a good, well-balanced diet. At least one hour each day should be devoted to out-of-door recreation and exercise.

k. Social Activity.—The spirit of home life should be carried into our schools so far as conveniently possible. Students should be taught to be Christian ladies and gentlemen in all

their social relationships. While the spirit of friendliness and comradeship should be encouraged, special care should be taken to safeguard the students in their social contacts that no undue familiarity arise between the sexes.

### **ARTICLE XIII. CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS.**

#### **Section 1. Name.**

The organizations comprising local district groups of young people of the Assemblies of God shall be known as Christ's Ambassadors.

#### **Section 2. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Christ's Ambassadors shall be to foster and promote the work of God among our young people in harmony with the constitutional principles of co-operative fellowship and unity of the Assemblies of God.

#### **Section 3. Local Organizations.**

All local young people's organizations shall be considered as a branch of the local church work, under the general supervision of the pastor, whose counsel, advice and direction shall be respected in all activities which affect the relationship of the organization to the church and its activities in service.

The local young people may elect their own officers subject to the approval of the pastor and the Church Board, and may conduct their own services provided such services do not conflict with, nor detract from, the regular services of the church.

The pastor shall be considered as an honorary member of the organization and an ex-officio member of all its committees, and should be respected and honored as a shepherd and guide in all matters of service and fellowship.

The activities of the young people may include:

- a. Bible Training Classes.
- b. Prayer Meetings in the church or elsewhere which have the approval of the pastor and which will tend to build up the work of the church as a whole.
- c. Other activities, such as street work, jail services, hospital visitation, ministration to invalids, the sick and shut-ins, tract distribution, etc.

#### **Section 4. District Organizations.**

Groups of local organizations may be formed into State or District organizations, with the approval of the officary of the District Councils involved. The State or District organization shall be governed by the principles of co-operative

fellowship and shall be considered as a branch or department of the District Council. The District Council officary shall be considered as the honorary membership of the District organization and shall be honored and respected in all matters affecting the activities of the organization. The District organization shall have the right to elect its own officers and to supervise its own activities within the boundaries of the territory involved. The superintendent of the District Council shall be an ex-officio member of all District committees.

#### **Section 5. Plan for District Organization.**

Inasmuch as young people's State or District organizations have been authorized by the General Council resolutions, it is purposed that we continue such District organization with the following recommendations:

- a. That the young people's President shall be an ordained minister.
- b. That the manner of the election of the President by the young people's organization shall be subject to the approval of the District Council.
- c. That a constitution and bylaws covering the activities of the District organization shall be submitted to and approved by the District Presbytery with a view of standardizing such constitutions with those of other districts.
- d. The President of the District organization shall be subject to call by the District Presbytery for consultation in matters pertaining to young people.
- e. Sectional meetings of the district organization shall be strictly spiritual in character and arranged through the co-operation of the pastors and young people's leaders in each section, taking care not to conflict with other local or District meetings.
- f. That we disapprove of any attempt to effect a national organization of our young people.
- g. That in the future the matter of organization of young people in a District in which such organization does not now exist shall receive the approval of the District Council before being effective.

#### **Section 6. Christ's Ambassadors Department of the General Council.**

- a. There shall be a Christ's Ambassadors Department at

headquarters to function under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

b. The head of this department shall be appointed by the General Presbytery and shall be known as the National Christ's Ambassadors Secretary.

c. The purpose of this department shall be to plan and promote a spiritual program to save and conserve young people for the Kingdom of God and to correlate the wisdom and leadership of our older brethren with the zeal and enthusiasm of youth.

d. The functions of this department shall include:

1. Encouraging and assisting the development of regional young people's conferences.
2. Providing aid in the development and promotion of constructive district young people's programs.
3. Producing literature and helps to meet the specific needs of each group in the local young people's societies.
4. Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges.

e. Duties of the Secretary shall include:

1. Supervising the work of the department in the fulfillment of its intended purpose and functions.
2. Ministering on the field in the interests of Christ's Ambassadors work.

#### **Section 7. Christ's Ambassadors Herald.**

The CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS HERALD shall be the organ of the Christ's Ambassadors Department.

### **ARTICLE XIV. INSTITUTIONS.**

#### **Section 1. Central Bible Institute Management.**

a. The General Council shall control and manage the Central Bible Institute through a directorate appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. The directorate shall shape the policy, arrange its curriculum, provide the faculty, and have general supervision over the school.

#### **Section 2. Bible Schools.**

a. The General Council shall recognize the need of prac-

tical training of prospective ministers and missionaries. It shall be in hearty sympathy with every effort to provide such training where the standards of teaching and discipline maintained in the school are satisfactory.

b. The General Council shall encourage the further development of the Central Bible Institute, together with such other schools as may meet the required standard as set by the Central Bible Institute and become affiliated with the General Council through the District Council in which it is located.

c. The General Council shall have some representation upon the directorate of the schools. It shall have a voice in determining the standards of teaching and policy of management through the District Council in which such schools are located.

d. The examinations, reports, certificates, and diplomas, given by affiliated schools shall be on an equality with the Central Bible Institute in the matter of credits and conditions.

e. All graduates of such affiliated schools as shall have met these requirements shall be considered as on a par with the graduates of the Central Bible Institute.

#### **Section 3. District and General Council Bible Schools.**

Whereas, There are now several Bible Training Schools in our fellowship, and believing that all students should have proper training and supervision, therefore, be it

Resolved:

1. That we place ourselves upon record as expressing our conviction that it is unwise to unduly multiply Bible schools, as such multiplication tends to make difficult, through inadequate support, the maintenance of proper standards in the curriculum and equipment of schools already established and operating among us.

2. It shall be understood that the endorsement of a Bible school by a District Council does not constitute it a General Council Institution. Any school in order to be regarded as a General Council school must have the endorsement of, and be controlled by, the General Council. Bible schools that have been endorsed and are controlled by Districts, but not by the General Council, shall be regarded as District Bible schools. Any Bible school not endorsed by a District Council shall have no recognition in notices inserted in the Pentecostal Evangel.



3. Attention is called to the fact that Central Bible Institute is our only General Council Bible school. We place ourselves upon record as reaffirming previous declarations made concerning this institution. We have confidence in the management and the faculty, and agree to stand wholeheartedly back of this school to do all we can to promote its interests and to give to it, through proper publicity, the place it deserves in our fellowship.

4. We record our conviction that in the matter of publicity given to Bible schools in the Pentecostal Evangel the fact that Central Bible Institute is our only General Council Bible school should be borne in mind. Publicity to District schools should be stressed in the Districts and afforded through District channels. We express our conviction that only such notices concerning District Bible schools as are likely to interest our constituency as a whole should be published in the Pentecostal Evangel.

#### **Section 4. Other Institutions.**

a. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of homes for the aged, for children, and for retired ministers and missionaries.

b. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of academic schools for the children of our constituency.

c. The General Council shall encourage the opening and maintenance of Sunday schools throughout the fellowship.

d. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary schools on the various mission fields where practicable for the training of native workers, and schools for the education of the young children of missionaries.

#### **Section 5. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions.**

The General Council disapproves of the private ownership by members of the General or District Councils of church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God; and, where such private ownership exists it strongly recommends that a properly constituted incorporated body be formed and that the title to the property be transferred to such body, or that the soliciting of such funds cease.

A disregard of this attitude and recommendation of the General Council may affect the relationship to the General Council of members involved in such private ownership.

## **ARTICLE XV. PUBLICATIONS.**

### **Section 1. Official Organ.**

The Pentecostal Evangel shall be the official organ of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and shall be published in the interest of our fellowship and for the further propagation of our distinctive testimony. The Editor of the Pentecostal Evangel shall be chosen by the Executive Presbytery, said choice subject to ratification by the General Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall have authority to publish Sunday school literature, children's books and papers, etc., together with such other literature, including periodicals and books, as may be decided upon.

### **Section 2. Publishing House.**

The Publishing House and its equipment shall be developed as its business shall expand and funds may be available therefor.

### **Section 3. Management.**

The management of the Publishing House, with its various publications and business interests, shall be vested in the Executive Presbytery, who shall provide such personnel as may be required to supervise and carry on its work.

### **Section 4. Reports for the Evangel.**

Whereas, Reports of meetings held and announcements of meetings to be held which are of small value as items of news and are of strictly local interest are sent to the Evangel for publication from time to time, and

It is our desire to use all Evangel space to the best possible advantage for the glory of God; therefore, the Editor of the Evangel, together with the Executive Presbytery, shall be authorized to leave out of the Evangel such reports and announcements as seem to them to be of not sufficient interest to the majority of Evangel readers to be printed.

### **Section 5. Evangel Missionary Numbers.**

The management of the Publishing House is authorized to denominate four issues of the Pentecostal Evangel each year as Missionary Numbers, and that they be devoted as exclusively as may be found practicable, to the publication of missionary articles and the dissemination of missionary information.

## **ARTICLE XVI. MILITARY SERVICE.**

While recognizing Human Government as of Divine ordination and affirming our unswerving loyalty to the Gov-

ernment of the United States, nevertheless we are constrained to define our position with reference to the taking of human life.

We as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, believe in implicit obedience to the Divine commands and precepts which instruct us to "Follow peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14), "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13), "Resist not evil" (Matt. 5:39), "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44), etc. These and other scriptures have always been accepted and interpreted by our churches as prohibiting Christians from shedding blood or taking human life; therefore, we, as a body of Christians, while purposing to fulfill all the obligations of loyal citizenship, are nevertheless constrained to declare we cannot conscientiously participate in war and armed resistance which involves the actual destruction of human life, since this is contrary to our view of the clear teachings of the inspired Word of God which is the sole basis of our faith. At the same time the General Council hereby declares its unswerving loyalty to our Government and to its Chief Executive, and we purpose to assist the government in time of war in every way morally possible, consistent with our faith.

#### **ARTICLE XVII. FINANCE.**

The work of the General Council in its definite program of development of the spirit of co-operation and fellowship in home and foreign fields incurs considerable expense, including financial support of the General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer and such other help as may be needed, in maintaining headquarters, purchasing stationery and postage, and defraying traveling expenses, etc.

Therefore, every minister in the fellowship shall recognize his obligation to contribute from his tithes or as an offering, or through his influence, the sum of one dollar per month. And further, looking towards the increased efficiency of the fellowship throughout the entire field, all who can contribute more, personally or through their assemblies, than the suggested amount, are hereby strongly urged to do so. If practicable, let each assembly take one offering each year for the upkeep of the General Council office and traveling expenses.

#### **ARTICLE XVIII. DOCTRINES APPROVED AND DISAPPROVED.**

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, the General

Council has set itself on record pertaining to the approval or disapproval of certain matters, as follows:

#### **Section 1. Heresies Disapproved.**

The General Council hereby disapproves of the Seventh-day teaching, of the extreme so-called Eternal Security teaching, and of the Restitution of All Things doctrine, and those holding and agitating such teachings, thereby causing confusion and division among God's people, shall be dealt with according to Titus 3:10.

#### **Section 2. Regarding Meats.**

The pressing of the question of eating, or not eating meats, is causing divisions in some of the assemblies,

Therefore, the General Council disapproves of such extreme positions on this question which cause these divisions, and we recognize the right of each individual conscience in this matter, according to Col. 2:14-17; Rom. 14:1-23.

#### **Section 3. Setting a Time 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; and also it is unwise to give out from the platform, or publish visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

#### **Section 4. Regarding Secret Societies.**

All ministers affiliated with us shall refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which we recognize as essentially of the world, worldly, and we advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connection therewith.

#### **Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage.**

a. 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 cases be left in the hands of the Lord, and that they walk in the light as God lets it shine on their souls.

b. 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 divorce for any cause except for fornication and adultery (Matt. 19:9); and recommend the remaining single of all

divorced Christians, and that they pray God so to keep them in purity and peace. (See 1 Corinthians 7.)

#### **Section 6. Regarding Worldliness.**

Inasmuch as a spirit of worldliness has been creeping into many of our assemblies, and our pastors in some places meet with much opposition as they hold up Bible standards and take a stand against popular sins; therefore we as a body unitedly declare ourselves against all forms of worldliness, but particularly against modern immodesty and extremity in dress, and we all agree as pastors, evangelists, licentiates, exhorters, Sunday school superintendents and teachers, to speak the same things and voice ourselves against all forms of popular sins.

#### **Section 7. Post-Tribulation Rapture Teaching.**

Whereas, The General Council 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

Whereas, The teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints; therefore,

We recommend that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into insecurity by any teaching that would cause them to feel that certain events must occur before the Rapture of the saints.

Furthermore, We recommend that should any of our ministers hold to the post-Tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected.

#### **Section 8. Paying Tithes.**

a. We recognize the duty of tithing, and we urge all our people to pay tithes to God.

b. 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 in general and not given to charity or used for other purposes. All ministers should be tithers, practicing what they preach.

c. Regarding our basis of fellowship in reference to tithing: The basis of our fellowship is that of voluntary co-

operation; therefore, the making the paying of tithes into the District Treasury by the ministry a basis of fellowship is disapproved.

#### **ARTICLE XIX. ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

The regular order of business for the Council Meeting shall be:

1. Report of the General Superintendent.
2. Report of Secretary.
3. Report of Treasurer.
4. Committee Reports.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. Election of Officers.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

All business sessions of the Council shall commence with prayer.

#### **ARTICLE XX. AMENDMENTS.**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the General Council. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.