

Dr. C. C. Japp

MINUTES and CONSTITUTION

WITH BYLAWS, REVISED

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Assemblies of God

THE TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL COUNCIL
Atlanta, Georgia, August 16-21, 1951

MINUTES
of the
Twenty-Fourth
GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened at
Atlanta, Georgia
August 16 - 21, 1951

Printed in the U. S. A.

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FOREWORD

A complete record of all devotional and preaching services, together with names of speakers, has been preserved in the files of the Executive Offices of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. For the sake of brevity, these features have been eliminated from the printed minutes.

Copies of the minutes of the Twenty-fourth General Council can be obtained from the General Secretary, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield, Missouri.

General Offices: 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri

Wesley R. Steelberg	General Superintendent
Gayle F. Lewis	Assistant General Superintendent (Publications)
Ralph M. Riggs	Assistant General Superintendent (Education)
Fred Vogler	Assistant General Superintendent (Home Missions—Benevolences)
Bert Webb	Assistant General Superintendent (Youth—Christ's Ambassadors)
J. Roswell Flower	General Secretary
Wilfred A. Brown	General Treasurer (Radio)
Noel Perkin	Foreign Missions Secretary

Wesley R. Steelberg, Wilfred A. Brown, William I. Evans,
J. Roswell Flower, D. P. Holloway, Gayle F. Lewis,
Noel Perkin, Bartlett Peterson, Ralph M. Riggs,
Fred Vogler, Bert Webb, A. A. Wilson,
Ernest S. Williams (honorary).

The Twenty-fourth General Council of the Assemblies of God was opened at the Municipal Auditorium in Atlanta, Georgia, August 16, 1951 at 10:30 a.m. Robert Willis, District C. A. President of Texas, led the congregation in singing "Love Lifted Me." Gwen Jones was organist and Fred Henry served at the piano. After prayer by Albert Lazar of Chester, Pa., Wesley R. Steelberg requested the congregation to stand and sing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

The General Superintendent welcomed the assembled delegates and friends, stating that each one is an integral part of this great fellowship; that we are members one of another and all of the body of Christ. The General Secretary then introduced the executive officers, each of whom brought his own word of greeting to the Council. A. A. Wilson of Kansas City, Mo. was the only executive officer not present, having been unavoidably detained at home.

Rev. R. C. Jones, host District Superintendent, introduced the Honorable William B. Hartsfield, mayor of Atlanta, who extended a hearty welcome to the convention delegates. The response was given by Ralph M. Riggs, Assistant General Superintendent.

In addition to Georgia, eight other districts had co-operated as hosts to the Council, and their respective superintendents were then introduced by R. C. Jones as follows: H. S. Bush of South Florida; J. B. Davis of West Florida; T. H. Spence, Alabama; Walter G. Dixon, South Carolina; Andrew Stirling, North Carolina; A. H. Morrison, Appalachian District; W. G. White, Tennessee; and J. F. Ballard of Mississippi. Brother Jones also read the names of the fifteen Atlanta pastors, asking them to stand for recognition as their names were called.

The closing feature of the morning meeting was the address of the General Superintendent, Wesley R. Steelberg, who was introduced by G. F. Lewis, and who brought a challenging message on the theme of "Our Dual Spiritual Heritage in Pentecost."

At the conclusion of the devotional and preaching services, the Council was opened for business at 3:20 p.m. with the General Superintendent in the chair. He announced the names

of those who had been appointed to serve on committees for this Council, as follows:

General Council Committees

Committee on Management: Fred Vogler, Chairman, Robert C. Jones, Grover M. Langston.

Roster Committee: Bernard L. Bresson, Chairman, Charles S. Craighead, Herbert A. Nunley, Paul Miller, A. Austin Amerine, Arthur T. Lowery, Kenneth I. Wright, Lowell C. Ashbrook, Lloyd R. Logan.

Resolutions Committee: W. T. Gaston, Chairman, E. B. Crump, Paul C. Samuelson, Glenn E. Millard, Curtis W. Ringness, Joseph A. Bogue, Roy Smuland, Ben Hardin.

Foreign Missions Committee: Wallace S. Bragg, Chairman, Maynard L. Ketcham, John C. Tinsman, H. C. Ball, Roy L. Steger, George H. Carmichael, J. B. Davis, Noel Perkin.

Home Missions Committee: Atwood Foster, Chairman, James K. Gressett, G. Raymond Carlson, A. C. Bates, R. C. Jones, Amos R. Farley, James W. Van Meter, J. E. Neeley, Fred Vogler.

Committee on Benevolences: Glenn A. Renick, Chairman, Ernest S. Williams, V. H. Ray, R. L. Brandt, Albert M. Alber, W. R. Williamson, Fred Vogler.

Educational Committee: Charles W. H. Scott, Chairman, Frank L. Lindquist, Irvine J. Harrison, Arthur H. Graves, Millard E. Collins, Ottie E. Gaugh, J. Raymond Ton, Charles W. Denton, James E. Hamill, Ralph M. Riggs.

Christ's Ambassadors Committee: Warren L. Hill, Chairman, Paul E. Paino, Edwin Burris, Richard C. Fulmer, Paul K. Witten, Robert J. Willis, Bert Webb.

Radio Committee: Charles E. Blair, Chairman, Kenneth M. Haystead, M. A. Jollay, Emil A. Balliet, James G. Mayo, Herbert E. Eicher, Marcus T. Gaston.

Ministers' Benefit Assn.: R. J. Thurmond, Chairman, N. D. Davidson, Donald G. Foote, Roy H. Wead, Ivan O. Miller, Wilfred A. Brown.

Women's Missionary Council: Mrs. F. C. Woodworth, Chairman, Mrs. F. J. Walton, Mrs. E. A. Beck, Mrs. Jeff Gibbs, Mrs. Thomas R. Brubaker, Mrs. George H. Carmichael, Mrs. Edith Whipple.

Ministerial Relations: James O. Savell, Chairman, Oscar C. Arneson, M. F. Brandt, Thomas R. Brubaker, James E. Austell, Frank Gray, Howard S. Bush.

Program Committee: Marcus Gaston, Chairman, Harry M. Myers, Ensley T. Quanabush, Carl E. Perry, E. Gene Martin.

Publicity Committee: Thomas F. Zimmerman, Chairman, R. D. E. Smith, James G. Mayo, Lloyd N. Colbaugh, Elinor Springer.

Greetings were then presented, consisting of a telegram from Chaplain James H. Woods, and a letter from J. Narver Gortner, one of our elder ministers and an honorary General Presbyter.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to the presentation of reports. The printed reports having been distributed to the delegates were supplemented by comments and remarks, as follows: The Superintendent's report by Wesley R. Steelberg, the Secretary's report by J. Roswell Flower, the Treasurer's report by Wilfred A. Brown, and the Missions report by Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Secretary.

The afternoon meeting was concluded at 5:00 o'clock, with prayer offered by David J. du Plessis.

FRIDAY MORNING

A fresh touch of blessing came upon the assemblage during the morning devotional service as the result of a message in song by Edwin Anderson who sang "I Bowed in the Shadow of the Cross." The morning address was given by J. R. Flower, General Secretary, on the theme of the rise of the present-day Pentecostal movement. The devotional service was concluded as the congregation arose and joined in singing, "O Holy Ghost, Revival Comes from Thee."

The business meeting was opened by the General Superintendent at 10:40 a.m. He welcomed to this convention Rev. David J. du Plessis, secretary of the World Pentecostal Fellowship, who in turn brought a few words of greeting to the Council. Among other things he said, "This is not a fellowship because we choose to create it; it is a fellowship created by the Holy Ghost and we just recognize it."

Dr. C. M. Wortman, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, was introduced and he brought greetings from our Canadian brethren. He stated that already he felt much at home among God's people in the deep south.

Brother Fred Vogler summarized the report of the Home Missions Department. He also mentioned that a business man in Hutchinson, Kansas has made more than \$100,000 available to the Home Missions Department for a revolving

loan fund to aid pioneer churches.

It was then moved, seconded and the motion prevailed, that the General Council go on record as expressing sincere appreciation to Mr. Henry Krause of Hutchinson, Kansas for the money made available to the Home Missions Department for use in pioneer works, and that an expression of appreciation be conveyed to our brother by telegram. (A night letter with this message from the General Council was sent to Mr. Krause on Friday night, August 17.)

The report of the Department of Benevolences was given by Brother Fred Vogler. Prior to January 1951 the Department had handled all benevolences including the operation of the Pinellas Park Home, but excepting the Ministers' Benevolence Fund, which had been administered by the General Treasurer. In January of this year, the Benevolence Fund was also transferred from the office of the General Treasurer to the Benevolence Department, so that that Department now handles all benevolences of the General Council.

R. M. Riggs, Educational Secretary, then presented the report of the Educational Department, which was accepted by motion.

The report of Central Bible Institute was given by Bartlett Peterson, President of the school, and this report was accepted as read.

The morning meeting adjourned at the noon hour, prayer being offered by Bert Webb.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon service opened at 2 o'clock with members of the Sunday School Department in complete charge of the devotions. By oral and visual demonstration the challenge was given to reach ever more and more with the Pentecostal message through the Sunday School. The business meeting was opened by the General Superintendent at 3:00 p.m.

Departmental reports were again presented including the Radio Department, by Marcus Gaston, and the C. A. Department by Bert Webb. Both reports indicated definite advancements in each field. G. F. Lewis then summarized reports from the Gospel Publishing House, including the Sunday School Department, Production, Book and Sales, Business Office, Correspondence School, the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, and Church School Literature. All reports were accepted by motion.

At the conclusion of the reading of reports, there was brought to the floor unfinished business from the last General

Council in Seattle, Washington. Brother Bartlett Peterson, vice-chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The twenty-third General Council in session at Seattle, Washington, in 1949, made as an order of business for this twenty-fourth session the amending of the Constitution with respect to educational standards for the ministry, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That Article X, paragraph "c" of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the following:

"Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such reading courses and pass examination as may be prescribed by respective District Councils in agreement with the Credentials Committee of the General Council."

It was moved and seconded that the Resolution affecting amendment to the Constitution be adopted. The motion carried.

Telegrams of greetings were read by the Chairman, having been received from Howard Carter, Regina, Sask., Canada; Rev. and Mrs. Paul H. Ralstin, San Jose, Calif. and from Aaron A. Wilson of Kansas City, Mo. (The telegram from Brother Ralstin also contained a request for prayer in behalf of his wife who had sustained a fractured hip in a fall. The congregation joined in prayer for this need.)

Rev. Robert Barrie of Scotland was introduced by Brother Steelberg. He brought a few words of greeting from the British Assemblies in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Chair introduced Brother Sven Bjork, a talented singer recently come to the U.S.A. from Stockholm, Sweden. He thrilled the congregation by singing in both English and Swedish, the well-known song "It Is No Secret."

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 4:45 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING

The devotional service in charge of Gene Martin was concluded with an inspirational testimony service.

J. A. Synan, Senior Bishop of the Pentecostal Holiness Church and President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, was present to address the Council in behalf of the P.F.N.A. The tenor of his message was that down through the ages the Devil has attempted to write "The End" to the work of God, but he has continually played

the fool and God has used his folly to write "Therefore" and start a new chapter. He challenged us to take hold of circumstances as we find them and transform them into accomplishments for the work of God.

The business meeting opened at 10:40, the first order of business being the presentation of the Pension Plan by the chairman of the Pension Plan Committee, R. J. Thurmond. He read his report and moved the adoption of the Plan as presented.

ENLARGED MINISTERS' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

It is the belief of the Pension Committee that the present Ministers' Benefit Association Plan can be expanded with satisfactory results. It recommends that the M.B.A. be enlarged to include the following points:

1. That membership be made available to all ordained and licensed ministers;
2. That each participating minister pay 3% of his salary, which will be applied to his credit;
3. That each participating church pay an amount equal to 3% of its pastor's salary, with the recommendation that the church pay an amount equal to 6% of its pastor's salary if possible, which amount shall be applied to the minister's credit;
4. That interest shall be computed annually on the average amount which was in the minister's account the previous year and added to his account each January, at the rate which investment experience makes possible. The present anticipated rate of interest is 3%;
5. That no church payment shall be credited to the account of any minister who is not at the same time making personal contributions. However, a member may discontinue payments at any time without forfeiting his right to any funds credited to his account. Such funds shall be allowed to accumulate interest until his death or retirement. Any minister leaving the fellowship of the Assemblies of God or for any other reason desiring to withdraw his funds shall be entitled to the full amount of his personal contributions plus accumulated interest, subject to 90 days prior notice. Should he elect to allow his personal contributions to remain on deposit in the Fund the contributions from churches and or other sources to his account, plus interest, shall also remain to his credit until death or retirement age.
6. That evangelists and pastors whose churches do not participate may contribute at least 3% of their salaries to accumulate interest and to constitute a fund from which they will receive a pension allowance.

7. That every church be encouraged to continue taking two offerings a year for the present Old Age Assistance Fund, as long as needed, regardless of their participation in the Retirement Plan.

Following the sustaining of the motion that this Plan be considered paragraph by paragraph, each of the seven paragraphs was considered in its turn and, upon motion and a second, was approved, with the exception of paragraph 7, which was amended by the elimination of the words "as long as needed."

When put to a vote, the motion to adopt the Pension Plan was carried.

The motion was then made and seconded that this be referred to the Resolutions Committee for proper wording for the General Council By-Laws. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 with prayer by O. L. Harrup.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Educational Department had charge of the devotions, with three speakers bringing brief messages, as follows: R. L. Bennett, "As the Pastor Looks at the Bible School;" C. E. Butterfield, "What Our Schools Have Meant to Our Movement;" and "What Our Schools Now Have to Offer to the Young People of Our Fellowship," by Arthur Graves.

At 3:25 the business meeting was opened and a telegram of greeting from Louie W. Stokes was read conveying a sentiment of good wishes from the Argentina Assemblies of God.

Rev. James Hamill moved that the first order of business on Monday morning be the election of officers. Seconded and carried.

Invitations for 1953 General Council

Invitations were received from the following cities for the 1953 General Council: Long Beach, Calif.; St. Louis, Missouri; or Milwaukee, Wisconsin. No count was made of the rising vote for each city, but it appeared that the vote was very nearly equal in each case. The Chair then stated that although it is customary for the General Council to give expression to its desire for the location of its next meeting, the decision is left with the General Presbytery, and this body will in due time reach a decision on the choice of city.

Report of the Foreign Missions Committee

W. S. Bragg read a report of the Foreign Missions Committee and moved its adoption, as follows:

1. The Foreign Missions Committee heartily endorses the

findings of the District Missionary Representatives, which were compiled following the conference of District Missionary Representatives in Springfield, Missouri, March 9-13, 1951.

2. This Committee recommends that these findings and recommendations in a condensed form be presented to this General Council in session.

3. The Foreign Missions Committee recommends further that the findings and recommendations of the District Missionary Representatives in their entirety, together with other pertinent matter, be presented in booklet form and circulated among our pastors and churches. The name of this booklet is to be "A Suggested Foreign Missionary Program for Assemblies of God Churches." The Foreign Missions Department shall use every effort to present this booklet to churches and pastors and to explain the program delineated in the pamphlet.

4. The Foreign Missions Committee also recommends that articles in the District Representatives' Report which are of special interest to missionaries be incorporated in a revised Missionary Manual of the Assemblies of God.

The Findings and Recommendations of the District Missionary Representatives in their meeting of March 9-13, 1951 are as follows:

Report of District Missionary Representatives Finances

Any improvement in general financial income for Foreign Missions must be achieved primarily by the further education of our pastors and churches along missionary lines; the increased placing of projects before local churches and groups as an incentive to giving; and the discouragement of certain practices which tend to discourage giving or the channeling of funds into less profitable projects. The following measures are recommended:

1. All districts should arrange for and conduct regular missionary conventions in strategic locations and place definite financial information and goals before such conventions.

2. Churches not having strong missionary programs, should be encouraged to give not less than the equivalent of 10% of all general church offerings to missions, and this should be considered a minimum standard.

3. The need for endowments for foreign missionary use should be publicized fully in both districts and local churches.

4. Loans to the Foreign Missions Department should be encouraged for the purpose of increasing funds avail-

able to be loaned for foreign missions projects. The Foreign Missions Department should take under advisement the issuing of bonds in various denominations for this purpose. These bonds are to be issued in addition to the demand notes now available.

Deputations—Missionary Itineraries

1. A manual or pamphlet should be prepared by the Missions Department listing the various methods of preparing missionary itineraries. Those suggested were:

A. The District Missionary Representative preparing the complete itinerary.

B. Asking sectional presbyters to arrange itineraries in their sections.

C. Missionaries to make their own itineraries in a district in co-operation with the District Missionary Representative.

D. A Missionary may accompany a district officer throughout the District.

E. Missionary speakers should be given place at sectional and district councils, fellowship meetings, ministers' institutes, and camp meetings.

2. Districts having no missionaries of their own should be encouraged to arrange itineraries for missionaries from other districts, or for missionaries who have no home districts.

3. Further, each church in every district should have a missionary speaker at least once each year.

4. Complete arrangements for an itinerary should be made at least 30 days before it is to begin.

5. Missionaries desiring to hold missionary meetings in a district should first contact the District Missionary Representative before soliciting engagements or making arrangements for an itinerary. Overlapping of speakers causes embarrassment to pastors and missionaries alike.

How to Interest Districts That Are Not Particularly Missionary Minded

1. It was suggested that neighboring districts could be helpful in this regard by participating in their fellowship meetings, district councils, and camp meetings, etc.

2. It was also suggested that good missionary speakers attend ministers' institutes and district councils, either by invitation or as a visitor. A "spot" might be given them on the program!

How Many Missionaries Should Constitute a Team of Workers

1. One or two speakers can effectively itinerate in

a district, but for a convention three speakers are usually desired.

Missionary Conventions

There are four types or classifications of conventions which are worthy of consideration:

1. Metropolitan area conventions.
2. District-wide conventions.
3. Sectional conventions.
4. Local church conventions.

A. Important as district, sectional, and metropolitan area convention may be in their respective fields, the committee believes that they can never take the place of missionary conventions held in our local assemblies. Such conventions are of special importance in that they reach a much larger percentage of our constituency than any other type. It is through the concentrated missionary emphasis of local conventions that many of our strongest missionary churches have raised their annual missionary budget pledge. The committee strongly recommends that more of our churches be encouraged to hold annual missionary conventions as a part of their local program.

PUBLICATIONS

We recommend that a more vigorous effort be made by the district officers to interest the ministers in promoting "The Missionary Challenge."

RELATIONSHIPS

1. We recommend that any individual, feeling called to the foreign field, be advised to communicate with the Foreign Missions Department for instructions relative to missionary appointment and should not be encouraged to expect district assistance until the approval of the Foreign Missions Department has been secured.

2. We recommend that each missionary representative and district official be encouraged to secure a copy of the "Missionary Manual" published by the Foreign Missions Department and become familiar with its contents.

3. We recommend that missionaries, planning to visit in a district, should inform both the district officials and the Foreign Missions Department of their intent and that they should attempt no itinerary without the consent and approval of both.

4. We recommend that missionaries visiting or itinerating in a district should feel responsible to ascertain the district missionary policy and co-operate with it.

5. We recommend that pastor and missionaries should be encouraged to freely discuss their plans and ob-

jectives in order to better help each other.

6. It is strongly recommended that district officers and pastors confer with the Foreign Missions Department before promoting or endorsing any non-Council missionary or foreign missions project.

CHURCH MISSIONARY COMMITTEES

It is recommended that our churches shall be served by a missionary committee composed as follows: (1) Missionary Secretary, (2) Missionary Treasurer, (3) three committee men, and (4) the pastor. This committee shall meet each month to review the needs of missionaries and of the field and to plan an inclusive missionary program for the church.

Brother Bragg then read the Foreign Missions Committee's recommendation that the aforementioned report be prepared in booklet form for distribution, and moved the adoption of this recommendation. Carried.

Report of Committee on Benevolences

Rev. Glenn Renick read the report of the Committee on Benevolences and moved its adoption.

Report

The General Council of the Assemblies of God has had a rapid growth as a church organization. With this growth has come new responsibilities that cannot be ignored. A social welfare need of our aged ministers, missionaries, and members of our churches has demanded attention. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has not been indifferent to this Christian obligation placed upon it and has taken steps to meet this need.

The General Council in session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, passed the following resolution: "Be it resolved that a Welfare Association or Department be established under the general oversight of the Home Missions Secretary and become a field of operation under the Home Missions Department. This Association to be composed of a Board of Directors of seven men, appointed by the Executive Presbytery to formulate a Constitution and ByLaws to govern their work, which shall oversee and regulate all homes established in our Movement. To formulate policies of operation, including appeals for funds and to help in directing all benevolent and charitable work of the Assemblies of God." It was moved and seconded and the motion prevailed that all reference to the Home Missions Department be deleted from the report—the report and its recommendation in its amended form was then accepted by motion. Pages

36 and 37, Minutes of the General Council at Grand Rapids, Mich. Sept. 4-9, 1947.

The General Council in session at Seattle, Wash., Sept. 9-14, 1949, amended the resolution to establish a Department of Benevolence.

Section 1. AUTHORIZATION.

"There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall have the oversight of the Home for the Aged and Children's Homes. The Department shall be administered by a Commission consisting of a Director and four other members who shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Executive Presbytery." Page 31, Minutes of General Council, Seattle, Wash.

Your committee, working under the mandate of the above resolution has made a careful study and observation of the over-all picture of the Department of Benevolences, and has divided the Department into four different sections for your consideration. They are as follows:

1. The General Council Benevolent Fund for retired ministers.
2. The General Council Home for retired ministers and missionaries.
3. The District Council Homes for aged members of the Assemblies of God.
4. The General Council National Children's Home.

1. The General Council Benevolent Fund for Retired Ministers.

It is with pleasure that the Committee appointed to report on the Benevolence Fund comes before this General Council. This fund has proved of inestimable blessing to many of our aging ministers; men who have known sacrifice in the days when our Pentecostal Movement was new and in reproach. We thank every church that has remembered these brethren from year to year.

At the present time 322 persons, including married couples and single persons are receiving assistance from the Benevolence Fund. During the past fiscal year the sum of \$64,000 has been distributed in their behalf. We face the need, however, of more income than in the past, to provide equal assistance in the future, on account of the constant increase in the cost of living. Were only a small additional sum provided regularly for those now on the Benevolence list, this would more than take all that has been contributed during the past year. However, numbers of our ministers not yet receiving

assistance from the Benevolence Fund will gradually be added. We have hopes that a satisfactory plan may be adopted at this General Council, whereby co-operating ministers and churches may be able to build a fund which will provide reasonable pensions for ministers who co-operate in this Pension Plan. But this cannot be of help to our ministers who will not qualify for the Pension Fund, because of their age. Their only hope lies in further expansion of the Benevolence Fund. And let us remember that these ministers are among those who laid the foundation for our present well established churches and at a time when income was, in most cases, very meager.

The Committee on Benevolence therefore makes the following recommendation which it hopes may be approved by this Body and also by all the churches in the fellowship, believing that every church can meet this recommendation within their budget:

WHEREAS, Our aged ministers, who have borne the burden in the heat of the day in labors for the Lord, are worthy of appreciation and support, and

WHEREAS, Many of them find themselves without proper support when they have had to cease from their labors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Committee of Benevolences recommend that each church in the fellowship of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the co-operating churches, continue to take two special offerings annually for our aged ministers, as heretofore, in the spring and fall; and be it further recommended to meet the continually increasing need, in addition to these two offerings that each church put the Benevolence Fund into its monthly budget, no church giving less than one dollar per month.

2. The General Council Home for Aged Ministers and Missionaries

WHEREAS, There is a need for more income for the Pinellas Park Assemblies of God Home for Aged ministers of the Assemblies of God, we therefore RECOMMEND and urge that the Pinellas Park Home be utilized if need be by the taking in of boarding guests, until the time the space is needed for our ministers and missionaries.

We further recommend that as soon as possible and when funds are available for this, the extra space around this home be used for the erection of small cottages for aged couples of our constituency.

3. The District Council Homes for Aged Members of the Assemblies of God

WHEREAS, There is at present a growing need in our movement for the establishment of homes for the aged, as well as other homes of a benevolent nature, and

WHEREAS, Many of our aged friends are forced to enter homes other than Pentecostal, and are thus deprived in their declining years of the spiritual fellowship and ministry which is dear to their hearts, and which is a part of their rightful heritage; and

WHEREAS, These homes can be made self-supporting through proper management as guests of the homes would be supported by welfare and pension agencies in cases where they themselves would be unable to provide their support, thus after the initial cost of building and equipment has been met, these homes would become a real asset to our entire work; therefore we

RECOMMEND that a general policy for all District Homes be prepared by the Department of Benevolences, with proper rules and regulations stated so that there will be a uniform standard throughout the entire fellowship for operation and maintenance.

4. The General Council National Children's Home

WHEREAS, The National Children's Home at Hot Springs, Arkansas is an obligation of the General Council and the income is not sufficient for its needs, we therefore

RECOMMEND to the Board of Directors of the National Children's Home that careful study be given to the operation and promotion of the Home. We further

RECOMMEND that vigorous means be developed for stimulating interest and support for the National Children's Home so that funds sufficient for its operation be maintained.

The motion to adopt was seconded and carried.

Report of Home Missions Committee

The report of the Home Missions Committee was read by Atwood Foster, who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Church extension or home missions is a vital part of the great commission of our Lord, and we have only 6,000 churches in the face of multiplied thousands of cities and towns in America with absolutely no Assemblies of God; and we do have approximately 13,000 ministers, which is a ratio of two ministers for each established Assembly; and whereas the extension of foreign missions, as well as every other

department of our work, is directly dependent upon the development of the home field, therefore we

RECOMMEND, That the World Missions Program as adopted by the General Council at Grand Rapids be hereby reaffirmed as a reasonable and practical STANDARD; and that we encourage its adoption and promotion by every District, viz.:

70% of the World Missions Offerings for foreign missions

5% for foreign missions office expense

20% to be returned to districts for home missions and church extension

5% for the National Home Missions Department

WE RECOMMEND FURTHER, that the six-year expansion program as adopted by the General Council at Seattle be likewise reaffirmed in principle, viz.

The Plan

"While viewing the great growth which has taken place in the Assemblies of God, we also must consider the limitless possibilities and the positive necessity for continued expansion. Our 6,000 organized Assemblies of God churches, and nearly 275,000 enrolled members in the United States, are scarcely a beginning when compared with the population of the country.

"We, therefore, recommend that we adopt a (FIVE YEAR) expansion plan (if Jesus tarries) by which we shall seek to increase the number of churches from 6,000 to 10,000. In order to accomplish this we would suggest the following procedure:"

OUR GOAL: 10,000 churches in five years, by the following scale of increase: First year, 600 new churches; second year, 700; third year, 800; fourth year, 900; fifth year, 1,000.

THE PROGRAM: I. That we encourage consecrated young people, and Christian men and women skilled in some trade or profession, to seek employment in cities and towns where no assembly is established, that they may assist in opening new churches on the vocational volunteers programs, by

(a) Engaging in personal work

(b) Distributing tracts and gospel literature

(c) Arranging and conducting prayer meetings

(d) Assisting in evangelistic meetings

(e) Working in general for the establishment of a new assembly.

II. That we encourage our well-known evangelists to hold at least one meeting a year in a new, unevangelized field. We would strongly recommend that he

be given freedom to enter the particular field which God has laid upon his heart.

III. That we use student graduates in new field work, and also as assistant pastors.

METHODS AND MEANS OF PROMOTION:

1. Canvassing a new town with literature: (a) Evangelical, (b) The Pentecostal Evangel, (c) tracts.

2. Using the Christian young people of the town and nearby towns.

3. Radio work should also be valuable in the promotion of a new field work.

4. Street meetings.

5. Every Christian win at least one soul each year.

EQUIPMENT:

(1) Tents, (2) portable tabernacles, (3) tabernacles on wheels, (4) store buildings, (5) brush arbors, (6) abandoned church buildings which might be purchased, (7) the use of homes for cottage prayer meetings.

New churches, branch works and Sunday Schools to be opened by (1) pastors of established churches, (2) the sections of the districts, (3) the districts as a whole, (4) the Christ's Ambassadors of the sections and districts, (5) each assembly should undertake to establish another church, (6) Our large and established districts should adopt a home mission project in a less developed district, and assist the superintendent of that district in the establishing of a new church.

IV. SOME BENEFITS OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

(1) Enlarged missionary giving for both foreign and home missions, (2) Sale of our Assemblies of God literature would be increased, (3) Our National Radio Program would be assisted and ABOVE ALL, IT WILL MEAN THOUSANDS OF SOULS SAVED FOR ETERNITY.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, (1) That the Home Missions Department engage in an intensive and aggressive program of publicizing the tremendous challenge of extending our testimony in America, and

(2) That we solicit the co-operation of the Foreign Missions Department, the Christ's Ambassadors Department, and the Sunday School Department, as well as our Bible Schools, in reaching the above objectives, and

(3) That Article IX, Home Missions Department (Page 61) of the By-Laws be amended by adding to subsection "c" the words, "5% of the World Missions offerings" following the word, "Contributions."

The motion was made to adjourn and that the discussion

of the report of the Home Missions Committee be continued on Monday morning. The motion carried.

SUNDAY SERVICES

In keeping with traditional custom, all business was set aside for a full day devoted to spiritual ministry, fellowship and inspiration. The Memorial Service, immediately followed by a Communion Service, was presided over by Rev. Fred Vogler, Assistant General Superintendent. Rev. Louis Turnbull brought a fitting message from the Word, giving tribute to the memory of those who have gone on before. The names of these were read, seventy-nine in all, and Brother Noel Perkin then read the names of nine missionaries who had gone to be with the Lord since the last General Council. The roll of honor was as follows:

Ministers

Adams, Garcia P. (Mrs. E. G.), Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
Antilla, Emil A., Tacoma, Washington
Baker, William A., Kingman, Kansas
Bartlett, Robert L., Pensacola, Florida
Beatty, Charles C., Seattle, Washington
Benton, Clara M. (Mrs. A. D.), Elsinore, California
Berggren, Godfrey, Danbury, Connecticut
Blackstone, Mrs. Maud, San Diego, California
Bolton, Isaac J., Lakeland, Florida
Bolton, Emma M. (Mrs. I. J.), Lakeland, Florida
Bond, Earl E., Canton, Ohio
Bouton, William K., Flushing, New York
Brann, Oliver P., Westernport, Maryland
Brooks, Edward B., Atmore, Alabama
Brown, Lute E., Long Beach, California
Bruzellus, David, Monroe, Wisconsin
Buck, Hoyt H., San Diego, California
Choate, Clovis M., Haworth, Oklahoma
Clark, Mrs. Nettie, Alameda, California
Cockman, Ruth M., (Mrs. E. D.), St. Louis, Missouri
Coxe, William A. Sr., Pinellas Park, Florida
Danford, S. P., St. Andrew, Florida
De Vries, Guy, Latah, Washington
Dunlap, George W., The Dalles, Oregon
England, Otis R., Colton, California
Evans, J. R., Pinellas Park, Florida
Ferriott, Zephyr A. (Mrs. J. L.), Belton, Texas
Forsgren, August, Los Angeles, California
Fullerton, Elmer E., Wilmington, California
Gillespie, Robert, Port Orchard, Washington
Gore, Elmer E., Gainesville, Texas

Hansen, Hedvig A., Los Angeles, California
 Harris, Ben R., Imber, Oregon
 Hawkins, Morency A., Anadarko, Oklahoma
 Hulett, Mrs. Lulu M., Bushnell, Illinois
 Johnson, Hjalmar M., Sparta, Wisconsin
 Kent, Ernest H., Vale, South Dakota
 Kinsey, Charles, Panama, Oklahoma
 Knudsen, Chrest, Turlock, California
 Lamont, Nathaniel M., Pine River, Minnesota
 Lawrence, Guy T., Dallas, Texas
 Lefevre, Thomas J., Lott, Texas
 Livermore, Henry L., Green Lane, Pennsylvania
 McKim Walter O., Hollister, California
 McMakin, Ralph B., Norfolk, Virginia
 Mahan, Benjamin E., Washington, D.C.
 Maldonado, Luis Y., New York, New York
 Mangum, Grover C., Bay City, Texas
 Marlenee, Henry L., Eureka, California
 Martin, Carl E., Los Angeles, California
 Martin, Floyd G., Barber, Arkansas
 Massey, James F., Lexington, Missouri
 May, Margaret C. (Mrs. R. Fleming), Anacortes,
 Washington
 Meyer, Clyde, Sutton, North Dakota
 Miller, Blanche R. (Mrs. J. D.), Pasadena, California
 Mitchell, Allen H., Benton Harbor, Michigan
 Nash, Oscar E., Battle Creek, Michigan
 Nemeth, James, Carsonville, Michigan
 Nickell, Guy N., Oakland, California
 O'Bryan, Thomas R., Madisonville, Kentucky
 Osborn, Alson E., Alameda, California
 Padgett, Samuel M., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Pollard, Ada (Mrs. Robert), Brookfield, Missouri
 Roberts, Claude C., Crossett, Arkansas
 Rodgers, H. G., Gulfport, Mississippi
 Roe, Mrs. Ada Blanche, Hammond, Indiana
 Rose, Henry Arnold, Florence, Oregon
 Segerquist, Arthur H., Valdez, Alaska
 Selby, William L., Melcher, Iowa
 Sellers, Talmadge L., Tallahassee, Florida
 Snider, Horace H., Twin Falls, Idaho
 Stephens, Joseph W., Southport, Florida
 Stroud, John H., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Talcott, Bert, Springfield, Illinois
 Thorkildson, Mrs. Martha E., Los Angeles, California
 Vincent, James L., Bryan, Texas
 Watson, Margaret, Campton, Kentucky
 Wight, William D., Lawrence, Massachusetts
 Woods, Thomas E., Merced, California

Missionaries

Beckdahl, Christian, North India
 Blattner, Adolph, Venezuela
 Devin, Ralph M., Indonesia
 Isensee, Frank E., Peru
 Perkins, John M., Liberia
 Radford, Laura, Israel
 Sanders, Raymond I., Upper Volta, French West Africa
 Simpson, Fanny A., North India
 Shaver, J. Robert, South India

In the morning worship service which followed, Brother E. S. Williams, former General Superintendent, brought a message of encouragement, speaking from the text, "Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

One hundred missionaries participated in the great missionary rally on Sunday afternoon and J. Philip Hogan, missionary to China and Formosa, brought the message. In addition to the missionary offering which amounted to \$10,357.00, a number of pastors volunteered, on behalf of their churches, to assume the support of three couples who had been approved for missionary service, but who did not have their support.

The message of the evening evangelistic service was brought by Rev. James E. Hamill of Memphis, Tenn.

MONDAY MORNING

At the conclusion of the devotional service, at which Mrs. Marie Brown of Glad Tidings Tabernacle, New York City brought a stirring message on "Pentecost, the Calvary Road," the Chairman read telegraph greetings from Pastor and Mrs. Watson Argue and from a camp meeting in Osaka, Japan.

The first order of business called for by motion at the previous business session was election of officers. Tellers were appointed by the Chair, with Curtis Ringness serving as chairman.

B. L. Bresson, Chairman of the Roster Committee, brought in a report of the registration as it was of 10 a.m., August 20, 1951: Ordained ministers 1,110, Missionaries 129, Authorized delegates 251, and Visitors 829, making a total of 2,319; the present voting constituency is 1,490.

The motion was made, seconded and carried to declare an election if the candidate receives a two-thirds (2/3) vote on the nominating ballot—this to be applicable to the General Superintendent, the four Assistant Superintendents, and the General Secretary.

The ballot was cast for General Superintendent and during the time of its being counted business was continued, the first item being the presentation of a Resolution for the creation of a

Men's Fellowship of the Assemblies of God.

WHEREAS, There are great potentialities in the men membership of our assemblies which are not, at the present, fully utilized for the kingdom of God, be it

RESOLVED, That pastors encourage the formation of men's groups in local assemblies, wherever practical, for the purpose of acting as an auxiliary to the pastors in personal soul winning, in more united assistance in the business affairs of the church, in gatherings for prayer, and for counsel in the home and foreign missionary interests of the local assembly; and that for the sake of uniformity each such local association be designated MEN'S FELLOWSHIP.

He moved its adoption and the motion was seconded. Upon motion the above resolution was amended to make the designation MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD. The resolution was then adopted as amended.

The report of the tellers showed 799 votes cast for General Superintendent; 532 were necessary for election and W. R. Steelberg received 671. In a word of appreciation Brother Steelberg humbly expressed his gratitude for the fine vote of confidence and pledged himself anew to serve the entire constituency during the next two years to the very best of his ability.

During the passing of ballots for nomination of the four Assistant Superintendents, we were favored with special vocal numbers by the "Statesmen's Quartet."

It was moved and the motion was sustained, to add a further paragraph to the Resolution which had been adopted for recognition of an Assemblies of God Men's Fellowship to read as follows:

And be it further Resolved that, in order to assist in the development of these associations, our national headquarters be instructed to select a man who is qualified to provide the assemblies with helpful material in this phase of the work.

C. C. Burnett, a representative of the American Bible Society, spoke briefly in behalf of the work of the Society, and an offering was lifted to be used for the distribution of the Scriptures by the Society.

Opportunity was then given to David J. du Plessis to speak

in behalf of the World Pentecostal Conference which is scheduled to be held in London, England in the summer of 1952.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

Following the devotional service which was in charge of the Women's Missionary Council, the business of the Council was resumed.

Teller's Report

The report of the tellers indicated that 837 ballots were cast for the four Assistant Superintendents, a vote of 559 votes being necessary in each case for election. The tally indicated the following results:

Gayle F. Lewis	792
Ralph M. Riggs	728
Bert Webb	705
Fred Vogler	682

All four of the Assistant General Superintendents were then declared elected on the nominating ballot.

Nomination by ballot was made for the General Secretary. The total votes cast were 537 and J. R. Flower received 510. He was declared elected on the nominating ballot.

In accord with the General Council By-Laws, nominations for General Treasurer and Foreign Missions Secretary are to be made by the General Presbytery, to be ratified by the General Council. Those nominated by the General Presbytery were Wilfred A. Brown for General Treasurer and Noel Perkin for Foreign Missions Secretary. The balloting resulted in 615 votes being cast for General Treasurer, of which Wilfred A. Brown received 611. 619 votes were cast for Foreign Missions Secretary, of which Noel Perkin received 610. Both were declared elected to these offices.

The Report of the Home Missions Committee, action upon which had been deferred until Monday, was then read by the Chair, and upon motion, was adopted.

Charles W. H. Scott, chairman of the Educational Committee, read the report of said committee as follows:

Report of the Educational Committee

Your Educational Committee submits the following for your consideration:

Following the General Council in 1949, the Academic and Bible School members of this committee met, at the request of the Executive Presbytery, together with

the Bible School heads, for the purpose of working out a solution to the problems peculiar to this field of ministry.

The days thus spent in conference, proved to be profitable, as among other things a renewed emphasis was laid upon the value and necessity of spiritual life and Pentecostal power in our schools by these, the heads of our Pentecostal schools and colleges, themselves. The unanimous feeling expressed by all was that the moving and power of the Holy Spirit must always be paramount and have the precedence in all the schools of our fellowship.

During this December session the Executive Presbytery, at the request of the conference, set up a Bible School Commission for further study of school problems. This Commission met at Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Mo. in June of the following year. The work done by this Commission has been included in the report of the Educational Department as submitted by the Secretary of Education.

From information made available to us, this Committee is happy to report that the leaders of our Bible Schools and Colleges tell of great visitations and movings of the Holy Spirit among both faculty members and students in our schools. We feel that this should provide a reassurance to our fellowship that our educational program is not detracting from our Pentecostal heritage, but is rather contributing to the zeal and fervor which has helped make the Assemblies of God the evangelizing agency which it is today.

We earnestly solicit the interest and prayers of our fellowship, that our schools which are now playing such a vital part in the lives of our young people shall ever be preserved as a spiritual force in the training of our future leaders.

Cognizant of the fact that hundreds of our Pentecostal young people are now attending non-Pentecostal schools and colleges, as they prepare themselves for secular employment in the business and professional world, and in many cases are lost to our movement, your Educational Committee wishes to go on record as recognizing the need for an Assemblies of God College of Liberal Arts for the training of these young people.

In concluding this report, we recommend that the Sunday School Department of the Gospel Publishing House be instructed to prepare a series of Graded Sunday School lessons to provide for the indoctrination of our fellowship, which shall meet the need of all age groups beginning with the elementary departments and branching out to include all departments of our

Sunday Schools as soon as possible.

We further recommend that items which should be provided for our Church School constituency shall be made available on the basis of their contribution to the well-being of our fellowship, rather than the monetary returns which might accrue therefrom.

On motion, the report of the Educational Committee was adopted as read.

Nominations for Executive Presbyters

Nominations were made from the floor for four Executive Presbyters, the following ministers being nominated: Bartlett Peterson, Ben Hardin, W. I. Evans, D. H. McLaughlin, H. S. Bush, Charles W. H. Scott, T. F. Zimmerman V. G. Greisen, Emil A. Balliet, Paul Copeland, J. O. Savell, D. P. Holloway, Atwood Foster, A. A. Wilson, W. T. Gaston, F. D. Davis, Wallace S. Bragg.

On the first ballot, W. I. Evans was selected, receiving 409 votes of the 593 ballots cast. The number necessary for election was 396.

Balloting was resumed for the election of the three remaining presbyters.

Resolution on Divorce Question

W. T. Gaston, for the Resolutions Committee, presented an amendment to Section 5, Article XIX of the By-Laws to be known as paragraph "c" and moved that it be adopted as follows:

c. Since it is generally accepted among us that such persons are not to serve in official capacities in our churches, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies.

The motion was seconded and the remainder of the time, until adjournment was spent in debate.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Immediately following the devotional period, under the leadership of Harry M. Myers, the Roster Committee presented the final report of registration as follows:

Ordained ministers	1,146
Missionaries	129
Authorized Delegates	257
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Total Number of Voting Delegates	1,532
Registered Visitors	864
<hr/>	
Total Registration	2,396

Debate was continued on the question which was before the house, viz. the amendment to Section 5, Article XIX of the By-Laws. The resolution to amend was reviewed by the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and when voted upon was carried.

Growing out of the debate on this question, a further motion was made, seconded and carried to the effect that a commission be appointed to study all the angles of Scripture regarding divorce and remarriage, and in keeping with our present Constitution and By-Laws, this committee report its findings to the next General Council.

W. T. Gaston, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the following Resolution on the subject of

Religious Liberty in Italy.

WHEREAS, Considerable evidence has been presented concerning oppression in Italy of Pentecostal and other evangelical groups among which is the Assemblies of God of Italy which is also an affiliate of the General Council of the Assemblies of God of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, we understand the peace treaty and constitutional agreements with the government of Italy are now under consideration by our Department of State for revision, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this 24th Biennial Council of the Assemblies of God of the U.S.A. respectfully urge our Department of State to give the most careful consideration to those articles dealing with religious liberty so that the Pentecostal people in Italy, as well as other evangelical faiths, will be fully protected in freedom of worship and propagation of the faith.

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution Affecting the Christ's Ambassadors

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Valuable leadership is lost to the Christ's Ambassadors by the rapid turn-over in the office of District Christ's Ambassadors presidents, and

WHEREAS, Much of that turn-over is due to the fact that the general age limit for the office of District Christ's Ambassadors President is thirty-five (35) years; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That in the event a District Christ's Ambassadors President in office should reach the age of thirty-five (35) and the District desires to retain

him in office, he be permitted to serve through his thirty-eighth (38) year.

This resolution was seconded and given consideration, and on motion was adopted.

The following resolution was then presented by Bartlett Peterson, a member of the Resolutions Committee:

WHEREAS, Through Speed-the-Light the Christ's Ambassadors have made a major contribution to our foreign missionary program by providing transportation, printing and radio equipment, and

WHEREAS, The scope of Speed-the-Light is now broadened to give aid in the opening of evangelistic centers in strategic foreign locations, and

WHEREAS, The Christ's Ambassadors desire to co-operate in district home missions programs, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council in session recommend the following uniform Speed-the-Light policy:

1. That all local Christ's Ambassadors groups be encouraged to take monthly Speed-the-Light offerings.
2. That, in keeping with the World Missions offering pattern, all undesignated Speed-the-Light offerings (group, sectional and district) be apportioned 70 per cent for Speed-the-Light **foreign missions**, 20 per cent for **district home missions**, and up to 10 per cents, as needed, for national Speed-the-Light administration.
3. That the 20 per cent home missions portion be used exclusively for church buildings in the establishing of new Assemblies of God works.

It was moved and seconded this resolution be adopted, and after brief debate, the motion carried.

The tellers reported that on the third ballot, Bartlett Peterson and D. P. Holloway were elected Executive Presbyters.

Resolutions for Amendment of Article XVII of the By-Laws, the Ministers Benefit Association.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented a Resolution for the purpose of amending the Article in the By-Laws governing the Ministers' Benefit Association as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Article XVII, Section 1, be amended by deleting the words "create and" on line one; and that the words "and licensed" be inserted between the words "ordained" and "ministers" in line three; and that the last five lines of the section be deleted, making the section to read:

The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to put into operation an Association of Assemblies of God Ministers available to all ordained **and licensed** ministers of the General Council which shall have as its objective the accumulation of funds to make possible the retirement of its members at 65 years of age with a monthly income for life. This Association shall be known as the Assemblies of God ministers' Benefit Association.

2. That the words in Section 2, line 4, "which shall be elected by the members of the Association" shall be deleted and that in their place the following words shall be inserted: "chosen by the Executive Presbytery and subject to ratification by the General Presbytery," so that this section shall read:

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall serve as the first Board of Directors of this Association but shall delegate the administration of this Association to succeeding Boards of Directors, chosen by the Executive Presbytery and subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

3. That Sections 3 and 4 be referred to the Committee on Benevolences for revision and insertion under Article XV, Department of Benevolences.

4. That Section 5 be renumbered Section 3 and that the words "good income securities and" be inserted between the words "in property" in line 3 of the section so that the section will read:

The Board of Directors of the Ministers' Benefit Association shall be authorized to invest the funds of this Association **in good income securities** and property of the General and District Councils and local churches of the Assemblies of God provided that such investments are fully protected by mortgage and by note signed by General or District Council officials.

5. That Section 6 be renumbered Section 4; that the first two paragraphs of this section be deleted; that points two through seven in the enlarged Ministers' Benefit Association be inserted in their place; that the last paragraph of Section 6 be retained so that the section shall read:

Contributions shall be made to the Fund on the following basis: That each participating minister pay 3% of his salary, which will be applied to his credit; That each participating church pay an amount equivalent to 3% of its pastor's salary, with the further recommendation that the church pay an amount equal to 6% of its pastor's salary if possible,

which amount shall be applied to the minister's credit; That interest shall be computed annually on the average amount which was in the minister's account the previous year and added to his account each January, at the rate which investment experience makes possible; That no church payment shall be credited to the account of any minister who is not at the same time making personal contributions—however, a member may discontinue payments at any time without forfeiting his right to any funds credited to his account, Such funds shall be allowed to accumulate interest until his death or retirement. Any minister leaving the Fellowship of the Assemblies of God or for any other reason desiring to withdraw his funds shall be entitled to the full amount of his personal contributions plus accumulated interest, subject to 90 days prior notice. Should he elect to allow his personal contributions to remain on deposit in the Fund the contributions from churches and other sources to his account, plus interest, shall also remain to his credit until death or retirement age; That evangelists and pastors whose churches do not participate may contribute at least 3% of their income or salaries to accumulate interest and to constitute a fund from which they will receive a pension allowance; **That every church be encouraged to continue taking two offerings a year for the present old age assistance fund, regardless of their participation in the retirement Plan.**

6. That our entire Council fellowship and constituency is urged upon any fitting occasion and through the columns of our publications to interest friends in making special gifts and endowments to this Association.

The motion was made and seconded that this resolution of Amendment be adopted, and the motion was sustained.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Following the devotional period, Brother and Sister Louis Turnbull of Los Angeles, California were introduced by the Chair with the information that this year they are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. Each of them spoke of the Lord's leading and His goodness and mercy to them for the many years of ministry together. The assemblage expressed its good will by rising and singing "Bless Them Lord and Make Them a Blessing," followed by prayer, offered by Wesley R. Steelberg.

Resolution Affecting Social Security

A question pertaining to the availability of Social Security for ministers was raised, and W. T. Gaston, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented the following resolution, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, There is a rising movement to include the clergy in the provisions of the Social Security Program, and

WHEREAS, We shall be totally unable to provide for **our** ministers in any way comparable to the Social Security provisions, which in addition to retirement also include disability, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council go on record to the Congress of the United States favoring the inclusion of the clergy under the benefits of the Social Security program at the earliest possible moment; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we instruct our district to circulate a petition favoring such action to their constituencies both lay and ministerial, which when completed shall be forwarded to the Congress through the office of the General Council Secretary.

Discussion ensued, some of which indicated there was considerable misunderstanding regarding the Social Security Act. As a result, the motion was made to defer action and to refer this matter to a committee to prepare a report and present it to the next General Council.

The Women's Missionary Council

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the report of the Women's Missionary Council as it had been presented to the General Presbytery to be brought before the General Council, as follows:

WHEREAS, Practically every district in our constituency, with the possible exception of three or four, have now organized a district Women's Missionary Council, and

WHEREAS, The work of the WMC has grown to the extent that for the benefit of the missionaries there is a dire need of regulation and unification of its activities from headquarters, therefore

We, the Committee on Women's Missionary Council activities request:

First, That the WMC be recognized as a national organization and an integral part of the Assemblies of God;

Second, That a full-time national director be appointed

to supervise the activities and program of said organization. We suggest this office be supported as follows:

- A. By annual offerings from each local WMC organization taken on WMC DAY on or near February 14.
- B. By offerings received on WMC Days at Missionary Conventions throughout the constituency.
- C. By regular offerings from District WMC's.
- D. These offerings to be supplemented by funds from the Foreign and Home missions Departments until the National WMC Office can become self-supporting.

Third, That the Fourfold Program of the Women's Missionary Council shall be:

1. Foreign Missions
2. National Home Missions
3. District Home Missions
4. Needs of the Local Church.

Fourth, That the goal of the Women's Missionary Council for 1952 shall be:

1. A Women's Missionary Council in every church
2. Every WMC member an intercessor
3. Every WMC member a soul winner.
4. Every missionary child sponsored by a local WMC group
5. Every child in our children's homes sponsored by a local WMC group
6. A subscription to all our main publications sent to every public library in the United States
7. Every missionary to be remembered with a gift parcel at Christmas and on his or her birthday.

The motion was made, seconded and carried, that the Women's Missionary Council be recognized as a national organization and an integral part of the Assemblies of God, and that the program of the WMC be published and become a part of the minutes of this General Council.

Chaplaincy Commission

A resolution on the subject of a Chaplaincy Commission was presented by W. T. Gaston, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, as follows:

WHEREAS, There are certain advantages afforded by a Chaplains Commission which has representation in Washington, and

WHEREAS, The recognition of an interdenominational commission will not in any measure reduce the denominational quota assigned to the Assemblies of God by the Office of Chief of Chaplains, and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God can be served

acceptably by the Chaplaincy Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals, therefore be it

RESOLVED; That the Chaplaincy Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals be designated as the official agency to represent the Assemblies of God in the processing of all applications of Assemblies of God ministers for commissions in the chaplaincy of the armed forces of the U.S.A.

It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that this resolution be adopted.

The following resolution was presented by the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and on motion was adopted:

WHEREAS, Our Brother Frank Gray has given many years of faithful service as an officer of the Northwest District Council and as a General Presbyter thus having been in close association with the development and growth of our movement for many years, and

WHEREAS, It is desired to retain his esteemed counsel and aid, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That in keeping with the expressed petition of the Northwest District, this twenty-fourth Biennial General Council recognize Brother Gray as an honorary member of the General Presbytery.

Personal Evangelism

The subject of personal evangelism received considerable attention in the General Presbytery meeting, and a committee was appointed by that body to prepare a resolution for presentation to the General Council. This report was presented to the General Council by Roy Wead, as follows:

We recommend:

1. That this General Council go on record as favoring and encouraging an all-out effort in Personal Evangelism.

2. That a standing committee on Personal Evangelism be appointed to:

- a. Encourage and emphasize Personal Evangelism
- b. Recommend helpful materials
- c. Suggest organization for united efforts
- d. Do promotional work

3. That someone from headquarters be appointed to work with this committee

4. That each District encourage and promote a program of Personal Evangelism

5. That each assembly sponsor a definite Personal Evangelism program

6. That the C. A. and Sunday School Departments be encouraged to emphasize the Personal Evangelism phase of their programs.

The report of the Committee was accepted by motion and adopted.

Report of Radio Committee

The Committee on Radio presented its report as follows:

In preparing this report, we, the members of the Radio Committee, wish to thank God for our national broadcast, REVIVALTIME, which is being heard around the world on 67 stations and which has shown definite gains during the past two years, in finance, mail response, etc; and to commend the Radio Department for their part in the success achieved.

After surveying different sections of the country and realizing the possibility of further expansion, we submit the following recommendations:

1. That a radio representative be appointed in each district who could vitally assist in making our churches more radio-minded; and that this representative
 - a. Be a pastor or district officer who is interested in radio
 - b. Be appointed by the District Superintendent
 - c. Be supplied with information to keep before pastors and people at District Councils, camp meetings, C. A. Conventions, etc.
 - d. Attend meetings periodically with other district radio representatives and bring forth ideas for the advancement of the radio ministry.

2. In the light of reports and testimonies which give evidence to the fact that REVIVALTIME is conducting a missionary ministry, and

Having opportunities to place REVIVALTIME on several excellent foreign stations through which it would have almost world coverage,

We recommend that our Foreign Missions Department devise means by which certain missionary funds be used in sponsoring REVIVALTIME on foreign stations.

3. We further recommend that in view of the great demands made upon the General Superintendent for time and ministry, a committee be appointed to explore the possibilities of having a full-time speaker and director of REVIVALTIME.

The many wonderful testimonies received by the Radio Department telling of what a blessing REVIVALTIME is to shut-ins and many other needy persons, inspire us to continue to expand the preaching of the gospel through radio. The radio Committee petitions the General Council brethren to continue to pray for and support our national REVIVALTIME broadcast.

This report was received with favor, and on motion was adopted as read.

Resolution of Appreciation

The concluding resolution was presented by Bartlett Peterson, a member of the Resolutions Committee, and adopted unanimously as read:

RESOLVED, That we extend a vote of deep appreciation to Brother R. C. Jones, Superintendent of the Georgia District Council, other officers and ministers of the District, our Atlanta pastors and their congregations, special committees, the Superintendents, officers and ministers of the other seven co-operating south-eastern districts, for their cordial hospitality extended to this twenty-fourth biennial session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this session express its sincere appreciation for the kind and generous hospitality extended by the Honorable Mr. Herman E. Talmadge, Governor of the State of Georgia; the City of Atlanta; the Honorable Mr. W. B. Hartsfield, Mayor; the Chamber of Commerce; the Convention Bureau; the daily newspapers and radio stations of Atlanta, for publicity given to this convention; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That letters expressing our appreciation be written to each of the foregoing who have largely contributed to the success of this session.

A few other expressions of appreciation for this Council, its attendance, the passing of certain resolutions, etc. were made by the Chair and the members of the Council, and following the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Bartlett Peterson, the Council adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

J. ROSWELL FLOWER, General Secretary

Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to August

16 - 21, 1951

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 estab-

lished 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, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order; 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 we are 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 fulness 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.

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

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

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

d. 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.

e. 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 or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all 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. 3:16, 17; 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; John 8:17, 18.

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied, in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy 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; 3:57, 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 Savior 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 "till He come."

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 come the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 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 evan-

gelization 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 are the Scriptural promises 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 delegate.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS.

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

b. Special sessions of the General Council may be arranged by the Executive Presbytery if agreed by a majority of the General Presbyters.

c. 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, the Assistant General Superintendents, General Secretary, General Treasurer, and the Foreign Missions Secretary, together with such other officers as may be required in the future. Their terms of office shall begin three months after date of election and shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify.

2. Executive Presbytery.

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General Superintendents, General Secretary, General Treasurer, and Foreign Missions Secretary, together with such other brethren to be chosen from the active fellowship to bring the number of executives to twelve.

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 by the District Council and who shall take office immediately subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

The Executive Presbyters shall be ex-officio members of the General Presbytery.

The foreign fields shall be represented in the General Presbytery by the Field Secretaries of the Missions Depart-

ment and by the Superintendents of duly organized District Councils in foreign lands.

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.

a. 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. Delegates shall be elected upon a basis of representation as may be agreed upon by the Council.

b. 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.

c. 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 approved licensed ministers.

Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such reading courses and pass examinations as may be prescribed by respective District Councils in agreement with the Credentials Committee of the General Council.

d. 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 District endorsement.

e. 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 bylaws. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed field the District Council shall be expected to keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and co-operative fellowship to

which the General Council fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.

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, 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 officary for help. It may appeal from a decision by the District officary to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council when there is a question whether or not the Assembly has received 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 consideration prior to the General Council

meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds 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 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 Superintendents 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 at the District Council meeting.

c. The General Council shall have the right to elect additional officers to serve on the Executive Presbytery as provided in Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution. They 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 General Treasurer and the Foreign Missions Secretary shall be selected in the following manner: The General Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of available men for these strategic posts and shall select by secret ballot one

name for each office to be presented to the General Council in session for ratification. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election.

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 Presbyters shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council, with the exception that in the event of the death or incapacity of the General Superintendent, the General Secretary shall call a special meeting of the General Presbyters to be convened within thirty days, for the purpose of electing from the Assistant General Superintendents one to fill the office for the unexpired term.

b. In the event a General Presbyterian 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 Presbyterian until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the District Council.

Section 4. Voting Constituency.

The voting constituency shall consist of all accredited members, present and registered at any special or regular meeting of the General Council.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent.

a. 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.

b. To preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.

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 Superintendents.

- a. To assist the General Superintendent.
- b. To serve as Vice-Presidents of the corporation and to preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery in the absence of the General Superintendent.
- c. To serve as departmental heads as may be directed by the General Superintendent.
- d. The responsibility of office work and field ministry shall be equitably distributed among these men under the direction of the General Superintendent.
- e. Finally, to perform any other functions under the supervision of the General Superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council or 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 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 \$50,000. The treas-

urer's books shall be audited annually by competent auditors.

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 5. Duties of the Foreign Missions Secretary.

- a. To act as head of the Missions Department under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery.
- 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 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.
- g. To distribute all missionary funds as directed by the donors or by agreement with the Foreign Missions 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 act as purchasing agent for Missionary supplies.
- k. To perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Presbytery.

- a. The Executive Presbyters shall serve as trustees of the General Council. They shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight of all departments. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the General Council is not in session.
- b. They shall have the right to buy, take, lease or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible, of whatsoever kind as may be useful for the prosecution of its work.
- c. To hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.
- d. To issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.
- e. They shall be authorized to purchase or to dispose of se-

curities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.

f. All properties of the General Council shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned or conveyed by the trustees in the corporate name.

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

h. 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 their hands.

i. The Executive Presbytery shall also at their discretion call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.

j. The Executive Presbytery shall make a report to the General Council of their activities in behalf of the fellowship as may be directed.

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 as necessity may require. Committee members shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in collaboration with Departmental heads, subject to approval by the General Presbytery. They shall serve from the date of appointment to the next regular session of the General Presbytery convening between General Councils.

Section 2. Credentials Committee.

Such members of the Executive Presbytery as may re-

side 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 credentials of all ministers and 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, licensed ministers, delegates from assemblies, visitors, etc.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS.

Section 1. Boundaries.

The boundaries of the Districts shall be determined or rearranged by co-operative agreement between the Districts and the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

Section 2. Officers.

Each District Council shall be authorized to elect Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer and Presbytery together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the District membership.

Section 3. Voting Constituency.

The voting constituency shall consist of all accredited members present and registered, including ordained and licensed ministers and accredited delegates from affiliated churches.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY.

Section 1. Ministry Described.

Three classifications are recognized, viz., the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the exhorter or Christian worker. All applicants for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

Section 2. Qualifications.

a. Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9.

b. Qualifications for a license to preach shall be:

First: Clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel.

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

c. Efficient helpers in Gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service may be recognized as Christian workers or exhorters.

Section 3. License to Preach and Christian Workers, or Exhorters' Certificates.

Licenses to Preach and Christian workers' or Exhorters' Certificates shall be granted by District Councils to properly qualified applicants.

Section 4. Ordinations.

a. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the District Councils. Applicants twenty-three years of age or over who shall have met the necessary requirements shall appear before the credentials committee of the district where they reside. No person may be ordained to the ministry until he shall have held a license to preach and shall have been engaged in active work as a pastor or evangelist for at least two full consecutive years.

b. The Scriptures plainly teach that while there is a difference between the ministry of men and of women in the church, 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-three 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 granting credentials to those who have remarried and are now living in a state of matrimony while former companions are living.

c. The Credentials Committee of the General Council shall not be authorized to give consideration to an applicant for credentials upon the basis of an annulment of a former marriage unless the application is accompanied by a clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Every application must be judged on its own merits regardless of expressed opinions of attorneys or judges. The General Presbytery, acting as a court of appeals, has the right to make its own decisions in all such matters.

Section 6. Certificates.

Ordination papers with the accompanying fellowship certificates 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 com-

piled 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 or 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 the names of such persons and to place them upon an inactive list. Ministers who preach or conduct Gospel services less than twenty-five times per year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for one year. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year, they shall be removed from the ministerial fellowship. It shall be understood that this shall not apply to inactivity caused by infirmity of old age or ill health. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon an application for reinstatement bearing the endorsement of the District Officer.

Section 9. Ministerial Relations.

a. All ministers holding credentials with the District and General Councils shall be amenable to both the District and General Councils in matters of doctrine and conduct.

b. 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 the ministers of the Assemblies of God shall identify themselves with other organizations granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, their affiliation with this body shall be regarded as having ceased. They shall then be requested to return to the Execu-

tive Office of the General Council the credentials which had been issued by that 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 the minister in the District of his affiliation. His request shall be granted, provided he is found in good standing in his home District. In case the evidence gathered shall warrant contrary 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 followed 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-cooperative spirit, an assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly, and an arbitrary rejection of District counsel, 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 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 anyone who has 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 subject to Scriptural treatment as an offender by the District Officiary or by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship Certificates and may be the basis for 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 conducting 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.

While the Constitutional Declaration includes this prerogative, "To disapprove un-Scriptural methods, doctrine and conduct," adequate safeguards are provided in the Bylaws by arranging for appeals from local and District decisions, thus guaranteeing fair and impartial consideration of all actions affecting standing and fellowship.

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest

of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, after investigation and consideration of all facts by those qualified to act in such cases according to our co-operative agreements, such decisions shall be by all considered just and final and all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking any attitude toward 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.

a. Both the Officiary 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 other misconduct. In the event the officary of the District Council shall take the initiative, the trial shall be conducted by said officary in accordance with Council principles. In the event that the Executive Presbytery shall take the initiative and it should appear to them after consultation with the District Officiary not to be feasible to conduct a trial within the bounds of the District where the alleged offense may have been committed, a Judiciary Committee of six ordained ministers may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, one of whom shall be chosen by said committee to act as chairman. This committee shall be authorized and instructed to conduct a fair trial in accordance with Council principles.

b. A complete stenographic record of all trials of ministers shall be kept.

c. It shall be the privilege of every minister who may have had a trial to appeal from the decision rendered, provided such an appeal shall be made within thirty days thereafter.

d. Whenever a minister of the General Council shall

appeal from a decision of the District to the Executive Presbytery, or from the decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery, it shall be the duty of the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery to review the case by full examination of the documentary evidence relative to the trial in order to determine whether or not a proper trial has been conducted and a fair decision rendered. Those who conducted the trial shall, in such a case, furnish a complete record of the trial, including all evidence produced. No new evidence shall be considered in the review. All new evidence or testimony must be presented in re-trials.

e. In case the Executive Presbytery, or General Presbytery, shall decide, after such a review, that the decision made has not been a fair one, it shall be the right of that Body to which appeal has been made to reverse the decision, or, if it is decided that the case has been handled improperly, it shall be the right of those listening to the appeal to remand the case for retrial.

f. Appeals from decisions made by the District Officials shall not be heard by the General Presbytery until after the evidence has first been reviewed by the Executive Presbytery and its decision has been made.

ARTICLE VII. 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.

DEPARTMENTS

ARTICLE VIII. FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Missionary Purpose.

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

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 Foreign Missions Secretary and four others, appointed by the Superintendent in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Secretary and 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 Foreign 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 women 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. The fitness of the candidate for foreign service, however, will influence the decision of the committee more than the amount of funds pledged toward the applicant's support.

d. Funds provided for the 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 warrants 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 in which engaged, 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 have first 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 its endorsement before submitting their proposition to the Foreign Missions Department.

c. A certified 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 Councils 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 the 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 IX. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and Scope.

There shall be a Home Missions Department of the General Council. The work of the Department shall include church extension and general home missionary effort in co-operation with District Councils, and general supervision over the various branches that are now or may hereafter be authorized by the General Council.

Section 2. Government and Organization.

a. The Home Missions Department shall consist of the Home Missions Secretary, who shall be one of the Assistant General

Superintendents, assigned to head the department by the General Superintendent, together with four others, appointed by the General Superintendent, in co-operation with the Home Missions Secretary and subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, who shall constitute the Home Missions Committee.

b. The work of the Home Missions Department as a whole shall be under the general oversight of, and amenable to, the Executive Presbytery.

c. The department shall be financed by gifts, contributions, 5% of the World Missions offerings, and such funds as may be assigned to it."

Section 3. The Church Extension Division.

The Church Extension work of the Home Missions Department shall function in co-operation with the various Districts, in entering new fields in the United States, raising up new works, and in the general extension of our Fellowship.

Section 4. The Home Missions Division.

Home Missions work shall include all ministry among those classes of Americans now living in the Continental United States who are not usually ministered to by the Assemblies and Ministers of our Fellowship. Particularly listed in this group are the Jews, the population of Alaska, the American Indian, the deaf, the prisoners, and foreign-language groups of the United States.

Section 5. Branches.

a. A Branch is defined as a unit in the General Council organization equivalent to a District Council in General Presbytery and General Council Membership and relationship, and according to all provisions of Article X of the Constitution. A Branch is distinguished from a District Council in that its territory of operation is not geographical, but is confined to ministry among certain races or language groups. Its geographical area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more District Councils.

b. Branches shall be allowed that independence of operation which is accorded District Councils within the framework of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and transfers and other relationships between themselves and regular District Councils shall be effected with that consideration and respect practiced between District Councils. In order to promote a spirit of fellowship between them, the Branch Officials and the Home Missions Department should consult and co-

operate with the Officials of the District concerning the entering and/or maintenance of a work in a given area.

ARTICLE X. EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization.

There shall be an Educational Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the promotion of the educational activities of the Assemblies of God. This general responsibility shall specifically include Sunday Schools and other educational activities of local churches, schools for the academic education of our members, and the education and training of our ministers and candidates for the ministry. These specific functions shall call for the creation of three divisions in the Educational Department, viz., the Church School, the Academic, and Bible Institute; which divisions are hereby recognized.

It is understood that the promotion referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be only to that extent and in that way which conforms with the vested authority of the General Council Executive Offices and the sovereignty of the various districts and churches.

Section 2. Government and Organization.

The government and work of the Educational Department, and all its divisions, shall be vested in, and committed to the Executive Presbytery which shall serve as the Educational Committee. An Educational Secretary shall be appointed by the General Superintendent from among the Assistant General Superintendents who shall serve as Executive Secretary of the Educational Committee and head of the Educational Department.

The Department shall be strengthened by an advisory committee consisting of nine brethren experienced in teaching, whose duties shall be to provide helpful counsel and general assistance in standardizing, co-ordinating and facilitating the entire educational activities of the General Council. These advisory members shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Educational Secretary and subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. They shall continue in office for two years or until their successors are selected.

Section 3. The Church School Division.

The Church School Division of the Educational Department shall supervise the preparation of curricular material for

Sunday Schools and all other kinds of church schools and shall have the responsibility of general promotion and development of Sunday Schools and all other kinds of church schools in the churches of our constituency.

Section 4. Academic Division

The work of the Academic Division of the Educational Department shall include the supervision of all academic institutions of learning which are operated by and for the members of the Assemblies of God other than those which are purely local in character.

General supervision of the academic school work carried on by and for the members of the Assemblies of God shall be vested in the Educational Department. Its responsibility shall also be to encourage and provide for that academic education of the youth of our Fellowship for which there shall be need and demand.

The Educational Department shall have the right to erect standards to which all academic institutions shall be required to conform in order to receive General Council endorsement. No academic institution operated by members of the General Council or patronized by members of the Assemblies of God shall be recognized as approved by the General Council unless and until it conforms to the standards erected for such institutions by the Educational Department and has been approved by such Department. The Educational Department shall issue yearly certificates of endorsement to academic institutions meeting its standard for endorsement.

Section 5. The Bible Institute Division

The work of this division shall include the establishment of a sufficient number of Bible Institutes for the spiritual education and training of ministerial and missionary candidates and other Christian workers. The initiative in the establishment of new Bible Institutes may be taken by the Educational Department or by any interested group in any part of the country, subject to the approval of the Educational Department and the District in which it is to be located.

The Educational Department shall have the right to erect standards to which all Bible Institutes shall be required to conform in order to receive General Council endorsement. These standards may include the spiritual qualifications of the faculty, the required subjects of the curriculum, the length of class periods, school semesters and terms, the requirements for admission and for graduation, the aids to spiritual life such as quiet hours, daily chapel, missionary prayers, etc., rules of con-

duct, discipline, practical Christian work, social life, health conditions, etc. The Educational Department shall issue yearly certificates of endorsement to Institutes meeting its standard for endorsement.

It shall be the responsibility of the Educational Department to seek to maintain a high level of spirituality in all our Bible Institutes and to guard against any departure from the doctrines and spiritual experiences set forth in our statement of fundamental truths. This department shall also encourage educational and administrative efficiency in the various schools.

It shall also be the prerogative of the Educational Department to seek to provide our own textbooks for our Bible Institutes and prepare reading courses and promote short intensive institutes for those unable to attend Bible Schools and for our ministers in general. General responsibility for the welfare and development of our Bible Institute system as a whole, for the spiritual education and training of all candidates for Christian service and the stimulation of the needed interest and support of this work among our constituency shall be vested in the Educational Department.

Section 6. Central Bible Institute

a. The Educational Committee of the General Council shall constitute the Board of Directors of Central Bible Institute. They shall appoint the President of Central Bible Institute and, in consultation with him, the various members of its faculty and administrative staff.

b. As progress and growth demands, the Educational Department may provide a Full Theological Seminary Course in addition to the Bible Institute Course, and provide post-graduate work for graduates who seek special training for the ministry in the United States or foreign lands.

ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Authorization.

a. There shall be a Department of Publications which shall have as its purpose the promotion and development of the publishing and distributing agencies of the General Council.

b. A Secretary of Publications shall be appointed by the General Superintendent from among the Assistant General Superintendents who shall be the head of this department.

Section 2. Management and Control.

a. The management and control of the Department of Publications shall be committed to a Publications Committee

which shall be composed of the Secretary of Publications, the Manager of the Gospel Publishing House, the Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, and two other brethren appointed by the General Superintendent, in co-operation with the Secretary of Publications subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. Inasmuch as the work of the Educational Department is closely related to the Department of Publications, the Educational Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Department of Publications.

b. The Gospel Publishing House, its equipment, the promotion and expansion of its publications and general business interests shall be under the supervision of the Department of Publications.

c. The Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and all matters of importance must be submitted to the Presbytery for Executive approval.

d. 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 the fellowship and for the propagation of our distinctive testimony.

e. The Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL and the Manager of the Gospel Publishing House shall be chosen by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Secretary of Publications subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. They shall work in co-operation with the Department of Publications and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery. The Editor of Church School Publications, editorial writers, and other helpers as they are needed shall be chosen by the Publications Committee.

ARTICLE XII. YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization.

a. There shall be a Young People's Department identified as the Christ's Ambassadors Department of the General Council, which shall have the responsibility of promoting young people's activities for the Fellowship. The General Superintendent shall appoint one of the Assistant General Superintendents as the Director of the Department. It shall be his duty to direct the activities of the Department.

b. The Director of the Department, together with five others to be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Director of the Department, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, shall constitute the Young People's Committee, and the General Superintendent shall

designate one of the five to serve as National Christ's Ambassadors Secretary. At least two members of the above committee shall be appointed from the field at large. The Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Purpose.

a. 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. Its aim shall be to correlate the wisdom and leadership of our older brethren with the zeal and enthusiasm of youth in harmony with the constitutional principles of co-operative fellowship and unity of the Assemblies of God.

b. The functions of this Department shall include:

- (1). Encouraging and assisting the development of District Young People's programs.
- (2) Co-ordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.
- (3) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of our Christ's Ambassadors.
- (4) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges.

Section 3. Name.

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

Section 4. Organ.

The CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS HERALD shall be the organ of the Young People's Department.

Section 5. District Organizations.

Groups of local organizations may be formed into District organizations, with the approval of the officary of the District Councils involved. The 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 when deemed advisable by the District Presbytery, 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.

a. The young people's President shall be an ordained minister.

b. The manner of election of the President by the young people's organization shall be subject to the approval of the District Council.

c. A constitution and bylaws covering the activities of the District organization shall be submitted to and approved by the District Presbytery.

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.

Section 6. Local Organizations.

a. All local young people's organizations shall be considered as a branch of the local church work, to be 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

ARTICLE XIII. RADIO DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization

There shall be a Radio Department created to be operated under the direction of a Radio Commission and a Radio Director. Said Commission and Director are to be appointed and supervised by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Objectives

a. In preparation of the national broadcast, the Commission on Radio shall solicit the highest possible quality in musical presentation and shall feature capable speakers who shall offer messages in keeping with the Statement of Faith of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talent as shall meet the requirements of the Radio Commission.

c. A transcription library shall be provided for our ministers to draw upon for use in the preparation of local broadcasts as may be desired. Complete transcriptions shall also be prepared for optional use of ministers and churches. Such transcriptions shall allow time for local announcements. An appropriate series of transcriptions offering a distinctive presentation of our Statement of Faith shall be prepared for use in extended Home Missions work.

Section 3. Funds

The Radio Director shall be authorized to employ such means for the raising of funds as shall be deemed advisable by the Radio Commission.

ARTICLE XIV. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Section 1. Authorization.

a. There shall be a Department of Finance which shall have the responsibility for safeguarding, supervising and investing the finances of the General Council.

b. The Department shall be amenable to and function under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

c. The Department shall consist of the Treasurer of the General Council, who shall be the head of the Department, together with one member of each Department of the General Council, to be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the General Presbytery.

Section 2. Support of Headquarters.

a. The work of the General Council in its definite program of development of the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in home and foreign fields incurs considerable expense, including financial support of the Executive Officers and the maintaining of the Executive Offices. Every minister should, therefore, recognize his obligation to contribute from his tithes or as an offering, or through his influence, the sum of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per month. And further, looking toward the increased efficiency of the service to 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. The General Treasurer's office shall submit to the respective District offices a semi-annual report of ministers' contributions for the support of Headquarters. Each District shall make this information available to its ministers by any

of the following methods: 1. Collectively through District publications; 2. Individually by personal letter; or 3. In any other manner they may select.

b. If practicable, let each assembly take one offering each year for the upkeep of the General Council office and the travel expense of Executive Officers.

ARTICLE XV. DEPARTMENT OF BENEVOLENCES.

Section 1. Authorization.

There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall have the responsibility of administration of the Ministers' Benevolence Fund, the oversight of the General Council homes for the aged and of children's homes, and the administration of any other services of benevolence which may be committed to it. The Department shall be administered by a Commission consisting of a Director and four other members who shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Ministers' Benevolence Fund.

The ministers' Benevolence Fund was created for the purpose of providing financial aid to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God, and to their widows who, because of age or physical infirmity are no longer able to continue in active ministry, and for whom no other provision has been made for their temporal need.

The Ministers' Benevolence Department shall be authorized to solicit regular voluntary contributions from the ministers and the churches of the Assemblies of God, at such times and under such circumstances as may be determined by the commission. Special gifts and grants from legacies shall also be solicited.

The Fund shall be made available to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God, and to their widows, for whom no other means of support is available, provided:

1. The applicant shall have been engaged in active and approved ministry in the Assemblies of God fellowship for a period of ten or more years;

2. The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the District and General Councils;

3. Unqualified endorsement is given to the application by the District Officer.

Section 3. General Council Benevolent Institutions.

General Council Homes for the Aged and General Council

Children's Homes shall be operated by Boards of Directors appointed by the Executive Presbytery; said Boards shall be responsible to the Department of Benevolences in matters of policy and government.

Section 4. District Council Benevolent Institutions.

District Councils shall be recognized as having the authority to set up Homes for the Aged and Children's Homes in co-operation with the Department of Benevolences. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by that Department.

ARTICLE XVI. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Miscellaneous Institutions.

a. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary homes.

b. 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 2. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions.

The General Council approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God through properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, closed corporation or any other type of ownership where initiative of action or final authority is not vested in a corporation of the whole. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the District Council title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, the General Council strongly recommends that a properly incorporated body be formed and that the title to the property be transferred to it.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation of the General Council shall seriously affect the relationship to the General Council of members involved in such ownership.

ARTICLE XVII. MINISTERS' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Organization.

The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to put into

operation an Association of Assemblies of God Ministers available to all ordained and licensed ministers of the General Council which shall have as its objective the accumulation of funds to make possible the retirement of its members at 65 years of age with a monthly income for life. This Association shall be known as the Assemblies of God Ministers' Benefit Association.

Section 2. Administration.

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall serve as the first Board of Directors of this Association but shall delegate the administration of this Association to succeeding Boards of Directors, chosen by the Executive Presbytery and subject to ratification by the General Presbytery. All Boards of Directors of this Association shall, however, be amenable to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

Section 3. Investment of Funds.

The Board of Directors of the Ministers' Benefit Association shall be authorized to invest the funds of this Association in good income securities and property of the General and District Councils and local churches of the Assemblies of God provided that such investments are fully protected by mortgage and by note signed by General or District Council officials.

Section 4. Contributions.

Contributions shall be made to the Fund on the following basis:

a. That each participating minister pay 3% of his salary, which will be applied to his credit;

b. That each participating church pay an amount equivalent to 3% of its pastor's salary, with the recommendation that the church pay an amount equal to 6% of its pastor's salary if possible, which amount shall be applied to the minister's credit;

c. That interest shall be computed annually on the average amount which was in the minister's account the previous year and added to his account each January, at the rate which investment experience makes possible.

d. That no church payment shall be credited to the account of any minister who is not at the same time making personal contributions. However, a member may discontinue payments at any time without forfeiting his right to any funds credited to his account. Such funds shall be allowed to accumulate interest until his death or retirement. Any minister leaving the Fellow-

ship of the Assemblies of God or for any other reason desiring to withdraw his funds shall be entitled to the full amount of his personal contributions plus accumulated interest, subject to 90 days prior notice. Should he elect to allow his personal contributions to remain on deposit in the Fund the contributions from churches and other sources to his account, plus interest, shall also remain to his credit until death or retirement age;

e. That evangelists and pastors whose churches do not participate may contribute at least 3% of their salaries to accumulate interest and to constitute a fund from which they will receive a pension allowance;

f. That every church be encouraged to continue taking two offerings a year for the present old-age assistance fund, regardless of their participation in the Retirement Plan.

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

ARTICLE XVIII. MILITARY SERVICE

While recognizing Human Government as of Divine ordination and affirming our unswerving loyalty to the Government 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), "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 the 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 XIX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, the General Council has declared itself pertaining to 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 Orders.

Ours is a last day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matt. 24:14), leaving us no alternative but whole-hearted devotion to the cause of spreading the Gospel (Luke 9:52), and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Eph. 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20, Acts 26:26) reinforced by unchristian oaths (Matt. 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated. (II Cor. 6:14). Moreover, the spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aims at the improvement of the natural man only (I Cor. 2:14; Col. 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (II Pet. 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Eph. 2:8, 9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should 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 connections therewith (II Cor. 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (I Tim. 4:12; II Tim. 2:24-26).

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.)

c. Since it is generally accepted among us that such persons are not to serve in official capacities in our churches, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies.

Section 6. Worldliness.

In order to strengthen the hands of our pastors and evangelists in holding up Bible standards against popular sins, 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, licensed ministers, 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. Improper Use of Tithes.

a. According to Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord, and not given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

b. We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however of the teaching that all tithes should belong to the pastor for his support.

Section 9 Improper Solicitation of Funds.

a. It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds by letter or otherwise for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

b. The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with General Council principles or policies.

c. (1) Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

(2) Projects of general interest to the District must have

the authorization of the District Officiary.

(3) Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

(4) Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Missions Department.

d. The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with Council policies shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

ARTICLE XX. 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. Departmental Reports.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. Election of Officers.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

All business sessions of the Council shall commence with prayer.

ARTICLE XXI. QUORUM

All members registered and voting in any meeting of the General Council shall constitute a quorum, and all General Presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Executive Presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXII. 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.