

MINUTES and CONSTITUTION

WITH BYLAWS, REVISED

Assemblies of God

THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL COUNCIL

Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 26-September 2, 1953

DO NOT REMOVE FROM SECRETARIAT


Bartlett Peterson
General Secretary

MINUTES

of the

Twenty-Fifth GENERAL COUNCIL

of the

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened at
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 26 - September 2, 1953

Printed in the U.S.A.

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-fifth General Council can be obtained from the General Secretary, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, Inc.

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

General Officers and Executive Directors of Departments.

Ralph M. Riggs	General Superintendent Executive Director Department of Education
Gayle F. Lewis	Asst. Gen. Supt. Home Missions Department, Women's Missionary Council
James O. Savell	Asst Gen. Supt. Department of Publications
Bert Webb	Asst. Gen. Supt. Sunday School Department, Department of Evangelism
Thomas F. Zimmerman	Asst. Gen. Supt. Men's Fellowship Department, Christ Ambassadors Department
J. Roswell Flower	General Secretary
Wilfred A. Brown	General Treasurer Radio Department, Department of Benevolences
Noel Perkin, Secretary	Foreign Missions Department

Executive Presbytery

Ralph M. Riggs, Gayle F. Lewis, James O. Savell, Bert Webb,
Thomas F. Zimmerman, J. Roswell Flower, Wilfred A.
Brown, Noel Perkin, D. P. Holloway, D. H.
McLaughlin, Chas. W. H. Scott, A. A.
Wilson, Ernest S. Williams (Honorary)

**THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT MILWAUKEE,
WISCONSIN, August 26-September 2, 1953.**

The twenty-fifth General Council of the Assemblies of God was opened in the Municipal Auditorium, Milwaukee, Wis. with a grand rally of Christ's Ambassadors, the youth organization of the Assemblies of God, on Wednesday night, August 26th. The national Christ's Ambassadors director, Bert Webb, (1951-53) was in charge of the service. The speaker was Ralph Wilkerson. This was the beginning of the spiritual ministries which were continued throughout the days of the convention. Speakers had been chosen and announced for the devotional services preceding each business meeting and for the night meetings. A morning prayer meeting, presided over by A. A. Wilson, was conducted in the Juneau Hall of the auditorium at 8:00 a.m. each day. The prayer meeting and spiritual ministries during the day definitely affected the spirit of the entire council.

The business meetings of the twenty-fifth General Council were opened at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 27th. The Reverend Gayle F. Lewis, General Superintendent, extended a welcome to the ministers, delegates and visitors in attendance at this great gathering. He then introduced Rev. J. Roswell Flower, the General Secretary, who stated he believed he had the distinction of being the only one privileged to attend every General Council since the constitutional convention in 1914. Brother Flower then introduced the other members of the Executive Presbytery, each of whom gave a brief word of greeting or exhortation.

Rev. Robert Spencer, Superintendent of the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District was introduced by Brother Lewis. He expressed his pleasure that the district which he represented was privileged to serve as host for this General Council, and he extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and visitors present. Rev. R. L. Scharnick, a member of the local planning committee, also spoke in behalf of the pastors and churches of the city.

Dr. R. L. Decker, Executive Director of the National Association of Evangelicals was introduced by the General Superintendent, and he in turn presented two of his co-workers, Genevieve Archer, secretary, and Rev. Harold Taylor, national field director. Rev. Taylor announced that he had brought

along a supply of the N.A.E. official organ "United Action" and other N.A.E. literature, for distribution.

Dr. Decker laid emphasis upon the thought of what the Assemblies of God had contributed to united evangelical action, rather than what had been received through membership, and his address was well received.

Rev. Walter McAlister, Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada was then introduced, who brought greetings from the sister organization in Canada. He reviewed briefly the origin of the P.A.O.C. and its relationship to the Assemblies of God in the U.S.A.

The keynote address on the subject "Balance in the Spiritual Life" was then delivered by the General Superintendent, Gayle F. Lewis, after which the morning meeting was adjourned with prayer.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon devotional service was devoted to chaplaincy ministry in the armed forces. The guest speaker was Major General Ivan L. Bennett, Chief of Chaplains of the U. S. Army, who spoke for about thirty minutes on the subject of the privileges and responsibilities of the military chaplaincy. Rev. E. A. Beck of the Wisconsin-N. Michigan District introduced Rev. Douglas G. Scott, an Assemblies of God minister and chairman of the NAE Commission on Chaplains, who in turn introduced Maj. Gen. Arnold. The service was participated in by twelve or more Assemblies of God Chaplains.

The business meeting was opened at 3:30 p.m. with the General Superintendent, Gayle F. Lewis, in the chair. The General Secretary read the names of the chairmen and personnel of the General Council committees, as follows:

General Council Committees

Management: Fred Vogler, Chairman, Bartlett Peterson, Robert Spencer, Joseph P. Wannemacher.

Roster: C. C. Burnett, Chairman, Paul E. Paino, Robert M. Abbott, Wm. N. Sachs, Grover M. Langston, Byron E. Galyen, Willis E. Berry, Bernard B. Ridings, Melvin M. Brewer, Jr.

Resolutions: Curtis W. Ringness, Chairman, D. Leroy Sanders, E. L. Newby, Andrew Stirling, R. J. Carlson, J. K. Gressett, Stanley H. Clarke, David A. Hastie.

Foreign Missions: Emil A. Balliet, Chairman, J. Philip Hogan, Donald G. Foote, George H. Carmichael, Howard S. Bush, N. Lawrence Olson, James D. Menzie, Noel Perkin.

Home Missions: Obie L. Harrup, Chairman, G. Raymond Carlson, Thos. H. Spence, H. Paul Holdridge, Atwood Foster, A. C. Bates, Ben Hardin, Fred Vogler.

Benevolences: Glenn A. Renick, Chairman, Herman G. Johnson, E. B. Crump, Frank Gray, Louis H. Hauff, H. E. Waddle, V. H. Ray.

Education: Chas. W. H. Scott, Chairman, Ivan O. Miller, Klaude Kendrick, Ottie E. Gaugh, J. Robert Ashcroft, Arthur H. Graves, Milton T. Wells, Chas E. Butterfield, R. M. Riggs.

Christ's Ambassadors: Robert W. Pirtle, Chairman, Warren F. McPherson, M. Carl McCoy, Kenneth M. Fricheit, Dean E. Duncan, Bert Webb.

Radio: Dwight H. McLaughlin, Chairman, Geo. W. Hardcastle, R. J. Bergstrom, W. R. Williamson, E. M. Clark, D. V. Williams, Joseph E. Neely.

Women's Missionary Council: Mrs. E. A. Beck, Chairman, Mrs. J. D. Courtney, Mrs. A. T. Smith, Mrs. Paul Samuelson, Miss Kathleen Briggs, Mrs. R. J. Thurmond, Mrs. Edith Whipple, Mrs. Floyd Woodworth.

Personal Evangelism: Roy H. Wead, Chairman, G. L. Riffe, C. E. Reynolds, C. E. Persing, J. Robert Ashcroft, Bert Webb, J. Paul Copeland.

Divorce and Remarriage: Dwight H. McLaughlin, Chairman, Jas. D. Menzie, Arthur H. Graves, J. B. Scott, B. L. Bresson, S. M. Horton, T. J. Jones, O. E. Gaugh, Frank M. Boyd.

Social Security: R. M. Riggs, Chairman, James O. Savell, Wilfred A. Brown.

Ministerial Relations: A. M. Alber, Chairman, A. Newton Chase, Carl W. Loenser, V. G. Greisen, J. A. Thomas, Russell G. Fulford, W. Paul Jones.

Finance: Roy H. Wead, Chairman, Howard S. Bush, H. Paul Holdridge, A. A. Wilson, N. D. Davidson.

Publicity: Bert Webb, Chairman, Stafford S. Anderson, Lin Springer.

Departmental Reports

Printed Departmental Reports were distributed to all present. The chair announced that for the purpose of conserving time he would prefer not to have these reports read from the platform. The chair did, however, read his own report and highlighted certain features in the reports of the departments. J. O. Harrell, Manager of the Gospel Publishing House, spoke briefly concerning the growth of the periodicals issued by the Publishing House, and stated that J. Z. Kamerer

former manager, recently retired, had planned to be present at this Council but was detained at the last.

The presentation of reports was climaxed by the announcement that the Gospel Publishing House is now entirely out of debt for the construction of its new plant. A number of executive officers who were on the platform gathered for the official burning of the mortgage. In view of the fact J. Roswell Flower had served the General Council since its inception, and had had some share in the operation of the plant for most of the years of its history, he was given the privilege of striking the match for the burning of the mortgage.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 with prayer by Bert Webb.

FRIDAY MORNING

Following the usual devotional service, presided over by Rev. Ray Soper, the business meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. with the Superintendent, Gayle F. Lewis, in the chair. W. T. Gaston was called upon to commit the activities of the day to God in prayer.

The report of the General Treasurer was read by the Treasurer, Wilfred A. Brown, after which all the departmental reports were accepted by motion.

Social Security

Rev. R. M. Riggs, chairman of the Committee on Social Security, read the Committee's report, which had been printed and distributed to all the delegates. Mr. R. W. Hughes, Assistant Manager of the Social Security Office in Milwaukee, was then introduced by Brother Riggs, and since the purpose of his being present was to clarify the questions concerning the Social Security Act in its present form, some time was given for a question-answer period. It stated clearly that legislation has not been enacted to extend the advantages of Social Security to include ministers in the plan and therefore it would not be possible to give positive answers to the questions concerning what might transpire in the future by way of legislation to enlarge the benefits of social security to include ministers.

W. T. Gaston then moved the adoption of the resolution presented by the committee, which is as follows:

Inasmuch as it appears that the provisions of the Social Security Act are definitely to the advantage and benefit of our ministers, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That this General Council of the Assem-

blies of God hereby go on record as favoring the inclusion of ministers in the Social Security Act, that it prefers that individual ministers be allowed to make application for inclusion, and that proper representation be made to the Congress to this effect.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That in the event of Congress' passing a law which includes ministers in Social Security, the Executive Presbytery be authorized and empowered to take all steps necessary to include the ministers and missionaries of the Assemblies of God in the provision of such laws.

The motion was seconded and passed.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Hughes for his courtesy in appearing before this convention for the purpose of clarifying the provisions of the Social Security law.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The National Sunday School Department had complete charge of the devotional service, the opportunity being taken to stress evangelism through its various divisions such as Child Evangelism, Workers' Training, B.G.M.C., etc. An effective visual demonstration was given by the department.

The General Superintendent opened the meeting for business at 3:00 o'clock and invited Rev. E. S. Williams to lead in prayer.

The Reading of Greetings

The General Secretary then read several communications addressed to the General Council containing greetings. They were as follows: Cables from the South India Assemblies of God Conference and from the North India and Pakistan Assemblies of God; letters from the following: Elim Four-square Church in London, England; Rev. Flem Van Meter, Rev. J. Narver Gortner, Rev. Paul Copeland, National Sunday School Director (detained at home on account of illness), and from the Superintendent and Secretary of the Greek Branch of the Assemblies of God. It was suggested that the General Secretary send appropriate replies to each of those who had sent greetings.

Divorce and Remarriage

Rev. D. H. McLaughlin had been named to serve as chairman of the Committee appointed for the purpose of preparing a report on the subject of divorce and remarriage, and he served in this capacity for the two-year period between General Councils. He had, however, requested to be relieved

of this responsibility at this Convention since he was serving on another committee. J. D. Menzie was then requested to act as chairman. Brother McLaughlin gave a review of the work of the committee and the manner of compiling the manuscripts he had received from the committee members. He then asked Brother Menzie to read the report which had been prepared, as follows:

There were several well written manuscripts received from members of the Committee based upon the Holy Scriptures. Several hours of open and frank discussion followed. Having prayed sincerely for guidance, the following seems to your committee to be the mind of the Lord.

The task of the committee seemed to fall logically into two separate problems; the first of these involves divorce and remarriage as it pertains to the ministry. No change is suggested in the present standards now in general practice. Several committee members mentioned the standard in a praiseworthy manner, and though it may seem strict to some who may be seeking a way out of their marital problems, the manuscripts all advise strict adherence to our present policy. The Scriptures clearly teach that, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife." One of the translators renders this verse as follows: "Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once." 1 Tim. 3:2. Here is clear and positive direction for us in our standards for the ministry.

Since in practice the Assemblies of God has always disapproved of District Councils granting credentials to any applicant, where the husband or wife of the applicant is involved in marriage entanglements as covered in our By-Laws (Art. VI, Sec. 5, Item b), we therefore recommend that this General Council go on record to amend the above mentioned Article VI by deleting all of item "b" after the phrase "cause of divorce" and substituting, "We disapprove of District Councils granting credentials to a person living in the state of matrimony where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living," so that item "b" shall read as follows: "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 a person living in the state of matrimony where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living."

The second part of the problem assigned to your

committee is not so easily solved since it involves the proper realm of service for laymen who find themselves in this tragic situation at the time they are saved. Due to ever-increasing pressures caused by our own sympathies we must seek an answer to this problem also. However, since any relaxation of our present constitutional standards can only lead to more tragic results, we feel we must positively reaffirm our present position on Divorce and Remarriage as it affects [spiritual] leadership within the constituency of our churches.

Regarding deacons the Scriptures state: "Let the deacons be the husband of one wife." 1 Tim. 3:12. Here again, we feel safe in assuming that the Bible implies there should be no marriage entanglements in either the life of the deacon or his wife. Since this was the sole office for which the layman was eligible reference to other lay ministries would have been superfluous. Thus we feel the Scriptures imply that all positions of spiritual leadership held by laymen should have identical qualifications. As Christians we should manifest a kind and loving attitude toward those whose lives have been complicated by marriage entanglements. Avenues of service to God, not covered by the above, should not be denied these people.

We further recommend that a planned local church program be encouraged in which local "instruction classes" be conducted for both the married and unmarried with the purpose of helping our young people toward the goal of a serious and successful wedded life. We feel that if this program is to be successful it must needs be spearheaded from headquarters. We suggest that special emphasis be given this matter at least once each year. A brochure dealing with pertinent aspects of this subject could be of great assistance in the promotion of such a program.

By common consent, it was agreed to change the words in the fifth paragraph of the report "spiritual leadership" to "official capacity," so that the last statement of paragraph five will read: "we feel we must positively reaffirm our present position on Divorce and Remarriage as it affects official capacity within the constituency of our churches."

It was then moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that the last paragraph of the report be adopted in its entirety.

On motion, the report was received with appreciation for the work of the committee. The motion was then made and seconded to adopt the recommendation of the committee so

that Article VI, Sec. 5, Par. b will read:

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 a person living in the state of matrimony where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living.

The motion was adopted.

Motion was then made, seconded and passed that the first order of business on Monday morning be the election of officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. with prayer by H. M. Cadwalder, Sr.

SATURDAY MORNING

Following the usual devotional service, presided over by T. F. Zimmerman, the business meeting was opened at 10:00 o'clock.

Women's Missionary Council

C. W. Ringness, chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution No. 1 and moved its adoption, as follows:

WHEREAS, the 24th General Council convening in Atlanta, Ga. recognized the Women's Missionary Council as a national organization and an integral part of the Assemblies of God,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the By-Laws be amended by addition of the following Article to be known as Article XVII, subsequent articles to be renumbered accordingly.

ARTICLE XVII. WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization

a. There shall be a Women's Missionary Council Department of the General Council which shall serve to promote and synchronize the work which may be done by the women of our fellowship with the needs of the Foreign Missions, Home Missions and Benevolence Departments.

b. The Director of the Women's Missionary Council Department shall be known as the National Secretary of the Women's Missionary Council and shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. The National Secretary, together with the Foreign Missions Secretary, the Home Missions Secre-

tary and two other persons resident in Springfield, Missouri, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, shall constitute the Womens Missionary Council Committee. This committee shall be responsible for all decisions concerning policy. The department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

c. It shall be the duty of the National Secretary to promote the work of the Women's Missionary Council on a national scale; to set a standard of spiritual ministry in personal work and intercession as the principal aim of the WMC; to offer encouragement and assistance for the efficient operation of the local district councils and to guide the regulation and unification of all WMC activities.

Section 2. Departmental Functions.

a. To encourage local WMC groups, in co-operation with district WMC officers, for the maintaining of high standards of spiritual ministry, and to encourage faithfulness in the execution of assigned projects, which shall include definite projects for home and foreign missions, assistance to benevolent homes for the care of children and the aged, etc.

b. To keep in touch with present needs of our missionaries, their stations, and our benevolent homes, distributing the projects to the various district and local organizations, so that the needs may be met quickly and equitably, and that each district and local group may carry its proportionate share of service.

c. To conduct WMC conventions, seminars and rallies for the purpose of stimulating interest and disseminating information concerning the work of the Women's Missionary Council.

d. To prepare and publish handbooks and manuals, and to issue such bulletins as may be needed to carry out the above program.

e. To publicize the work of the Women's Missionary Council through the mediums of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, the MISSIONARY CHALLENGE, and other periodicals as opportunity is afforded.

The motion was seconded, and after some discussion was adopted.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DEPARTMENT

Resolution No. 2 was read by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, who then moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the 24th General Council convening in Atlanta, Ga. made provision for the Men's Fellowship of the Assemblies of God,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the By-Laws be amended by the addition of the following to be known as Article XVIII, subsequent articles to be renumbered accordingly:

ARTICLE XVIII. MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization

a. There shall be a Men's Fellowship Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the promotion, encouragement and co-ordination of local and district organizations of Men's Fellowships in the Assemblies of God.

b. The General Superintendent, in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not executive officers shall appoint one of the executive officers of the General Council as Executive Director of the Department. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a national secretary for this department, who shall be given the responsibility for the general promotion of the work of the department. He shall be assisted by a committee of four, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. This committee shall be responsible for all decisions affecting policy. The department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Departmental Functions

The purpose of the Men's Fellowship in general is to promote the forming of fellowship groups among men in local churches with the end in view of co-ordinating the interest and assistance of men in all assembly activities, such as definite assistance for the pastor in church projects, personal witnessing to men for Christ, a paternal interest in and care for the boys of the church, participation in benevolent enterprises.

For the accomplishment of its purposes, the department shall be authorized to prepare and publish handbooks and manuals, and to issue such bulletins as may be needed to further the cause of fellowship and united effort among the men of the Assemblies of God churches.

Brother Riggs, who had been working during the past two years in behalf of the Men's Fellowship, spoke briefly urging the churches to take up this project to put the laymen of the church actively to work. He also requested that the group pray for divine guidance in the selection of the right man for national director of the Men's Fellowship Department.

The motion was adopted.

Education Department

The chairman of the resolutions committee presented a report which had been prepared by a special committee appointed to make a study of the organizational structure of the General Council. The full report included definite suggestions for the revision of the By-Laws affecting the Departments of Education and Publication. It was moved and seconded that attention be given first to the Education Department, and the motion passed.

The report of the special committee included a number of minor revisions of the present By-Law affecting the membership of the advisory committee; the deletion of Section 3, The Church School Division; the addition of a new section to be numbered Section 4, General Ministerial Training. These minor revisions were approved by motion and the report of the committee affecting the revision of the By-Law, Education Department, was then adopted in its entirety. (See the By-Laws of the General Council, Section X, Education Department.)

Department of Publications

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee then read and moved the adoption of the portion of the report dealing with the Department of Publications. The committee appointed to make a study of the organizational structure of the General Council, had included in its recommendation for the Department of Publications, the Sunday School work of the General Council, as Section 3. A question was raised on the floor as to the advisability of retaining the Sunday School work of the General Council as a part of the Department of Publications. After some debate, it was moved by Ralph Harris, and the motion was seconded that Section 3 of the By-Law, concerning Sunday Schools be removed from the By-Law, and the Resolutions Committee be authorized to prepare a new By-Law making the Sunday School Department a separate Department, with the same standing as other departments of the General Council. The motion was adopted.

With the omission of Section 3, entitled Sunday School Department, the question was called for and the motion to adopt the revised By-Law for the Department of Publications carried. (See Article XII, General Council By-Laws.)

The morning meeting was adjourned at noon by prayer, offered by Rev. D. A. Hastie.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon devotions period was in charge of Bible school representatives under the direction of the Education Department.

The business meeting was opened at 3:10 p.m. with G. F. Lewis, chairman, presiding.

Introduction of Visitors

The Chair called to the platform a number of visiting brethren who were then introduced to the Council and given the privilege of speaking. Brother Joseph Svenhard, pastor at Tronjheim, Norway, spoke in his own tongue, his word of greeting being interpreted by Rev. Eric Johnson. Dr. C. M. Wortman, Secretary of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, brought greetings from the twelve or thirteen hundred workers in Canada. Rev. Howard P. Courtney, president of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, spoke briefly in appreciation of the fellowship he was experiencing at this meeting, and Rev. E. Alvarez, superintendent of the Cuban Assemblies of God, brought greetings from what he termed "The Sugar Bowl."

Organizational Structure General Council

C. W. Ringness, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, proceeded with the presentation of recommendations made by the special committee which had been appointed to study the organizational structure of the General Council. The committee had recommended there be no change in the offices of the General Council, but that we follow the precedent of electing four Assistant General Superintendents as formerly. He then read Resolution No. 4 as follows:

RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 1, "Duties of the General Superintendent," be amended by addition of a paragraph to be known as paragraph "e," as follows:

- e. To appoint Executive Directors of the various departments of the General Council from among the executive officers with the co-operation and advice of those members of the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That paragraphs e, f, and g shall be redesignated f, g, and h, respectively.

It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that this amendment to the By-Laws be made.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee then presented resolution No. 5 and moved its adoption as follows:

RESOLVED, That the General Secretary be authorized to edit the By-Laws, Articles 9, 10, 11 and 12 by substituting for the word "Secretary," the words "Executive Director," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the phrases, "Who shall be one of the Assistant General Superintendents," or, "From among the Assistant General Superintendents," be deleted where they appear, and the words be used as follows: "The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as Executive Director of the Department."

Page 64, Art. 9, Sec. 2, Par. a

Page 66, Art. 10, Section 2

Page 68, Art. 11, Sec. 1, Par. b

Page 69, Art. 12, Sec. 1, Par. a

The motion was adopted without debate.

Sunday School Department

In view of the action taken in the morning meeting relative to a separation of the Sunday School Department from the Department of Publications, Resolution No. 6, providing for the establishment of a new department to be known as the Sunday School Department was presented and the motion was made that it be adopted, as follows:

ARTICLE XI. SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and Organization

a. There shall be a Sunday School Department of the General Council which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday Schools and other church schools of a non-academic nature throughout the fellowship. The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as the Director of the Department.

b. There shall be a Secretary of the Sunday School Department to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. The Secretary of the Department together with four others appointed by the Executive Director in co-operation with the Secretary shall constitute the Sunday School Committee.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Sunday School Department shall be:

- a. To assist district and local Sunday School organizations in setting up effective programs;
- b. To promote and conduct Sunday School conventions on a national and regional basis;
- c. To encourage and conduct training programs for teachers and workers;
- d. To produce annuals, handbooks, brochures and literature of a promotional nature;
- e. To assist in the organization and development of Vacation Bible Schools and other educational activities of the local church.

The motion was adopted.

Authorization Loans for New Buildings

The business of the day was concluded with the presentation and adoption by unanimous vote of resolutions numbered 7 and 8, as approved by the General Presbytery, as follows:

WHEREAS, The evident blessing of God upon our Gospel Publishing House and upon our national headquarters makes it imperative that we obtain appropriate administrative facilities, the General Presbytery recommends the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, That this General Council empower the Executive Presbytery, and they are hereby empowered, to borrow a maximum of one million, five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000.00) dollars for the erection of national administrative offices in Springfield, Missouri, and

WHEREAS, There is an acute need at Central Bible Institute for appropriate classroom, library and administrative facilities, the General Presbyters recommend the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, That this General Council empower the Executive Presbyters, and they are hereby empowered to borrow a maximum of two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000.00) dollars for the erection of an administration building at Central Bible Institute.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m., the prayer of dismissal being offered by B. B. Compton.

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, followed immediately by a Communion Service, was presided over by Rev. Fred Vogler, Assistant General Superintendent. Rev. E. B. Crump brought a fitting message from the Word, giving tribute

to the memory of those ordained ministers and missionaries who had laid down their armor and entered into rest. The names of 90 ordained ministers were read, including the name of the late Wesley R. Steelberg, beloved General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, who departed to be with Christ at Cardiff, Wales on July 8, 1952. Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Secretary, then read the names of five departed missionaries. The roll of honor was as follows:

DECEASED

General Council '51 to General Council '53

Alford, Henry E., Pico, California
 Allen, Birdie L., Grand Prairie, Texas
 Anderson, Cartney H., Winchester, Virginia
 Arrington, Mrs. Uber, Monroe, Louisiana
 Ault, James L., Malvern, Arkansas
 Baize, Lawrence W., Princeton, Indiana
 Bell, Clarence B., Spencer, Iowa
 Bonds, J. C., Van Buren, Arkansas
 Bonilla, Francisco, Porterville, California
 Bowley, Harry E., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Boyer, Frank, Springfield, Missouri
 Branch, Alvin L., Los Angeles, California
 Brock, W. R., Lemoore, California
 Bryan, R. A., Houston, Texas
 Cardiff, Mrs. James A., Orlando, Florida
 Chadwick, Addis L., Travelers Rest, South Carolina
 Cleveland, Harry L., Kirkland, Washington
 Davis, Evan H., Columbus Falls, Montana
 Draper, Mark T., Fresno, California
 Duncan, Leroy R., Davenport, Washington
 Ebert, John H., Forest Grove, Oregon
 Flick, Lester G., Burlington, Washington
 Fordham, Lawrence A., Van Buren, Arkansas
 Fortenberry, W. L., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Gardner, H. G., Lake Charles, Louisiana
 Green, Otis H., Auburn, California
 Griswold, Jesse H., Zion, Illinois
 Gunder, Jess W., Chico, California
 Halsey, Mrs. Olive, Petersburg, Alaska
 Hinkle, Wesley L., Houston, Texas
 Hughes, John A., Inglewood, California
 Ivie, Jessie J., Cherryville, Missouri
 Jenkins, John E., Moosic, Pennsylvania
 Johnson, Arthur F., Aransas Pass, Texas
 Jollay, Bertie D., (Mrs. L. A.) London, Kentucky
 Jones, George C., Seattle, Washington (deceased 6/-
 10/51)
 Lantz, Joseph, Great Falls, Montana

Larson, Matthew, Yoakum, Texas
 Lister, Ross Elta, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Lock, Mrs. Anna B., Galva, Illinois
 Longdin, Mona (Mrs. W. E.), Knoxville, Iowa
 Lorton, Maggie E., (Mrs. O. A.), Beebe, Arkansas
 McClelland, Illie E., Forrest City, Arkansas
 McNeeley, Jacob L., Brookhaven, Mississippi
 McPherson, William F., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Markin, John C., Cardwell, Missouri
 Mercer, William A., Caldwell, Texas
 Mihok, Emery W., Auburndale, Florida
 Miller, Susie M., (Mrs. Jacob) Mishawaka, Indiana
 Minick, Claud A., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Mitchell, Jewel (Mrs. A. H.), Jackson, Tennessee
 Neal, Nora E., (Mrs. J. G.) Modesto, California
 Needham, Harold K., Vista, California
 Nelson, Myrtle E., (Mrs. P. C.) Fort Worth, Texas
 Nesta, Mauro, Rochester, New York
 Ogren, John A., Montesano, Washington
 Olson, Carl O., Keys, California
 Patey, James C., Ferndale, Washington
 Patterson, May A., Portland, Oregon
 Perry, Cyrus A., Waxahachie, Texas
 Pickel, Elmer W., Richland, Washington
 Piedemonte, Frank S., Holley, New York
 Ramirez, Frank C., Los Angeles, California
 Ramsey, Roy V., Osceola, Iowa
 Rasmussen, Rasmus S., Jacksonville, Oregon
 Reckley, Mrs. Ettie E., Cumberland, Maryland
 Reeder, Mrs. Harriet I., Rainier, Oregon
 Reimer, A. L., Limon, Colorado
 Rice, James M., Morocco, Indiana
 Richardson, Mrs. Julia A., Pinellas Park, Florida
 Richardson, William C., Goshen, Indiana
 Richey, Andrew J., Houston, Texas
 Riley, Luther L., Russellville, Arkansas
 Roberts, Palmer F., Macomb, Illinois
 Rogers, John E., Knoxville, Tennessee
 Rosenquist, Clarence, Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Rowland, Charles L., Milan, Missouri
 Schmidt, Lavina (Mrs. A. W.) Colton, California
 Siratt, William N., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Smith, Elmer, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Smith, Everett E., Marshalltown, Iowa
 Snyder, Charles W., Millville, New Jersey
 Steelberg, Wesley R., Springfield, Missouri
 Steller, Archie C., Blackfoot, Idaho
 Strankman, Elvin D., Neah Bay, Washington
 Svedin, Oscar V., Shelton, Connecticut

Urdahl, Mrs. Blanche E., Thief River Falls, Minnesota
 Weitz, Mrs. Emma, Piedmont, California
 Williamson, James G., Terre Haute, Indiana
 Yeadon, Robert F., Havana, Cuba

MISSIONARIES

Cooke, Katherine, North India
 Kritz, Laura K., Mexico
 Perdue, Ethel (Mrs. J.), South China
 Smith, Florence (Mrs. V.), Upper Volta, West Africa
 Wilson, June (Mrs. A. E.), Upper Volta, West Africa

In the morning worship service which followed, Brother Bartlett Peterson, President of Central Bible Institute, brought an inspiring message from Matt. 16:18, "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

One hundred and more missionaries participated in the great missionary rally on Sunday afternoon. The message and pledge challenge was brought by Charles Greenaway, returned missionary from West Africa. The pledges for missions were registered on a huge "cash register," the wheels of which were kept turning as the pledges came in, not only from the congregation, but by means of phone and telegraph from all over the country. The total pledges exceeded \$113,000.00.

The message of the evening evangelistic service was brought by Rev. Martin Luther Davidson. There was a good response to the altar call.

MONDAY MORNING

The first order of business, following the devotional service, was the election of officers. The following were appointed to serve as tellers: Arthur Shell, chairman, Wesley P. Steelberg, Fred Neubauer, Troy Helms, Paul Emery, Grant Wacker, Fred Reidenbach, T. E. Hollingsworth, T. C. Cunningham, B. L. Bresson, Paul Bicket, George E. Flower, Don Mallough, W. A. McCann, C. W. Quattlebaum, T. Horace Clark, M. M. Brewer, Bird Campbell, Jesse Smith, Fred Huber, J. Dunets, W. A. Newman, C. C. Curtis, Ralph Harris, B. Wolverton, A. King, J. C. Hunnicut, W. Miles, L. E. King, W. H. Boyles, D. V. Williams, W. B. Hinecker.

Report of Roster Committee

The Roster Committee presented its first report by its chairman, Cordas C. Burnett, as follows:

Ordained ministers and missionaries	1,599
Delegates from churches	346
Licensed ministers	132
Visitors	550

Total	2,627
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It was noted this provided an all-time high voting constituency of 1,945.

Ballots were cast for the nomination of General Superintendent, and while the tellers were counting the ballots, consideration was given to invitations for the next General Council. The motion was made, seconded and carried that a committee be appointed to meet all representatives of convention cities, and that the committee report to the General Council in the place of these representatives.

The following ministers were appointed by the chair to serve on this committee:

Frank Gray	Representing	Northwest
L. E. Halvorson	"	Southwest
Thos. R. Brubaker	"	Northeast
Howard S. Bush	"	Southeast
Raymond Carlson	"	North central
Martin B. Netzel	"	South central
Aaron A. Wilson	"	Central

Department of Evangelism

Roy H. Wead, Chairman of the Committee on Personal Evangelism presented the report of the committee as follows:

It is the consensus of the committee that the ministry of personal evangelism is frequently and in various localities a neglected ministry, and this neglect is to be deplored and corrected.

The committee further observed that evangelists in the larger area of evangelism are faced with special and peculiar problems which at present have no organized effort at solution. Solution to these problems might be found if an exchange of thought were available to those who participate in evangelistic efforts. The nature of evangelism, being nationwide rather than confined to a single local church or district, could profit by a clearing house of ideas.

It was obvious to the members of the committee that there is an increasing interest among our people in evangelism and that this interest is commensurate with a great world need of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The committee also observed that the Bible school students are not exposed to the ministry of evangelists in the same proportion as they are exposed to the ministry of the teacher, pastor and missionary.

In view of these numerous and complex problems, there is an apparent need for study requiring more time and research than a standing committee could provide. The committee, therefore, recommends that the following resolution be adopted by this 25th General Council in session:

Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery establish a Department of Evangelism to serve the evangelists and to emphasize, encourage and co-ordinate all phases of evangelism.

The report was received by motion. It was then moved and seconded that the Resolution to establish a Department of Evangelism be adopted.

During the debate, an amendment was offered to the effect the General Council make definite recommendations to the Department of Evangelism to include the subject of evangelism in the Bible school curriculum. The amendment was lost because it was the consensus of the body it can be left to the Department to work out the specific details of the evangelism project. When put to the vote, the Resolution was adopted.

The tellers read their report on the election of General Superintendent, and reported that none of the nominees received a two-third vote. There was, therefore, no election on the nominating ballot. The nominees consisted of G. F. Lewis, R. M. Riggs, J. O. Savell, Bert Webb, W. A. Brown, A. A. Wilson, N. Perkin, J. R. Flower, C. M. Ward, B. Peterson, V. Gardner, H. A. Bush, W. T. Gaston, Emil A. Balliet, Atwood Foster, E. Morgan, E. A. Beck, T. R. Brubaker, D. H. McLaughlin, E. S. Williams, V. G. Greisen, Geo. W. Hardcastle, D. P. Holloway, Jas. E. Hamill, Wm. I. Evans, C. A. Price, Floyd Woodworth, Watson Argue, T. F. Zimmerman, C. W. H. Scott, W. P. Steelberg.

The first elective ballot was cast and the tellers reported 1,378 delegates of the 1,945 qualified voting delegates cast ballots. A total of 919 votes were required for an election. None of the nominees received a sufficient number of votes for election. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes was G. F. Lewis, who received 644. The second ballot was cast just before noon to permit the tellers to count the

ballot during the noon hour.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by J. R. Flower.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

Following the devotional period, which was in charge of the Women's Missionary Council, the Chair requested that the General Secretary preside during the course of elections. The tellers brought in a report of the second elective ballot, which indicated no election on this ballot for General Superintendent.

The Council proceeded with the balloting, interspersing business between reports from the tellers. For the sake of brevity, the details of the balloting are eliminated from the minutes, the finals only being published.

Report of Home Missions Department

The report of Home Missions Department was presented by O. L. Harrup, chairman of the Committee, as follows:

Jesus said, "Say ye not, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest. Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

We of the Assemblies of God have the divinely given responsibility of establishing this Full Gospel message in the thousands of cities and communities of America, which are as yet unreached. There is among us an awakened interest in Home Missions. This is evidenced by the enthusiasm and response to our two national seminars and by the increased activities of our districts in opening new churches, and by the response of our people to Home Missions appeals.

There is a God-given revival burning among us. Many souls are being reached by present-day evangelism. This must result in the establishing of hundreds and thousands more churches if the fruits thereof are to be properly conserved.

We are constrained by the Spirit of our Lord resting upon us to take America for Christ. We are challenged by the multiplied thousands of great cities and centers of population that are still without our established Assemblies of God churches.

Therefore, we reaffirm the expansion program as adopted at the General Council in Seattle, and reaffirmed by the General Council at Atlanta, (Pages 18, 19, and 20 of Minutes and Constitution and By-Laws, Revised 1951, and in order to realize the effecting of this plan, we offer the following:

Resolved, That the Home Missions Department be

provided with a promotional man who shall be charged with the responsibility of executing this program. He shall devote his time entirely in promoting and developing new works in the homeland as outlined in the expansion plan.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. It was then moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that the resolution offered by the Home Missions Committee be adopted.

While the third ballot was being counted, Cordas C. Burnett spoke in behalf of the work of the American Bible Society and arrangements were made for the acceptance of an offering for the work of the Society.

Report of Radio Committee

The report of the Radio Committee was presented by D. H. McLaughlin as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the Revivaltime program and the activities of the Radio Department for the past two years. We have found that administration and directorship of Revivaltime, in bridging the crisis caused by the death of the Revivaltime speaker, Brother Steelberg, is commendable. The Radio Department's report, which you have received, indicates the many advances that have been made in adding new stations and increasing financial support.

In viewing the future of Revivaltime objectively, your committee finds that while Revivaltime has enjoyed a healthy growth, it is still in its formative stage and does not yet bring to the world the forceful appeal that we feel a program representing our great movement should make. God has raised us up as a people with an evangelical Pentecostal message for this last hour. We believe that as a movement we have a great future and have only begun to realize the possibilities. Although we have developed rapidly, yet, we at the present time reach a high of only 710,000 of the nation's one hundred and sixty millions.

Radio is our first line of contact with these millions of souls for whom Christ died. We as a Committee feel deeply concerned that we offer them a program dynamically evangelistic, that will by the Holy Spirit's moving, create a true Revivaltime atmosphere in the homes of America, each time it is aired. Our national radio voice is also of necessity in the foreground of our advance in promoting our movement and molding public opinion. It is, therefore, your Committee's opinion that Revivaltime should seek to convey to the public

a true well-balanced Pentecostal program, clothed with the realistic Holy Ghost atmosphere peculiar to our movement. Your Committee has also found that while we have added new outlets consistently, we do not yet nearly cover the field. There are entire areas in the United States where our broadcast is not heard. The Los Angeles area, the San Francisco Bay area, the Detroit area, Iowa, Oregon, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, the New England States, and the Southeastern States either do not hear the program or it is very weak in their areas. It would be ideal if we could reach all of our constituency.

THEREFORE, in order to give our world-wide radio voice further coverage, atmosphere and prestige, and to make it a greater blessing than ever in evangelization at home and abroad, aiding in promotion of our local assemblies and our various national departments,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

1. That we endeavor to localize the identity of promotion of the program in a measure. We believe the name REVIVALTIME represents what we desire, and is good. However, we feel that the usage of the term General Council should be discontinued and suggest instead "REVIVALTIME, the world-wide program of the Assemblies of God sponsored by your local Assemblies of God churches." Further, that each local assembly recognize Revivaltime as their program, tying it in with the assembly's activities and promotion.
2. That a greater endeavor be made to personalize the broadcast. We recommend that the program be built around a personality who would be free from all other duties to give his time to lead and pastor Revivaltime. We also recommend that the speaker also act as the field representative of the program. In the further interest of personalization of the broadcast, we suggest the securing of a permanent quartet and accompanist free to travel with the speaker. Further, we recommend that our Executive Presbyters fill these posts and that the speaker and others chosen be under the direct supervision of the Executive Presbyters and responsible to them.
3. THAT WE PLACE REVIVALTIME ON A LIVE BROADCAST over a NATIONAL HOOKUP, continuing our foreign outlets as at present. Your Committee feels that this would be the only satisfactory means of giving the broadcast the atmosphere and prestige desired. At the present time we have been offered a hookup on ABC with a nation-wide cover-

age of 360 stations, the release to be made at 10:30 p.m. in each time zone, each Sunday, at a weekly cost of \$5,300.00.

4. **FINANCING:** Our present broadcast outlets number over one hundred at a cost of \$80,000 per year, plus outlets financed locally, amounting to approximately \$36,000, or a total of \$116,000. Broadcasting over the ABC net-work, three hundred outlets would cost us \$275,000 plus the present cost of our foreign outlets of \$30,000. There would be an approximate savings of \$12,000 in recordings which we feel would take care of the increased personnel. Your committee believes that this step would be possible financially if our constituency realizes the tremendous possibilities of such a program, its aid to our foreign missions work, and its effect upon our local progress. The financial obligation is small if approached on a local level. Only \$1.00 per week would be needed from each assembly in our nation to carry the program, or only \$1.00 from each member per year. Thousands of dollars are now being received from persons outside of our movement interested in the program. We urge that a stronger appeal be made both in the broadcast and through our national periodicals in an effort to share this blessing of giving.

In the light of the hour in which we live, with a world going to hell, we believe now is the time to exercise faith and to work together in a great forward step for souls.

Respectfully submitted
YOUR RADIO COMMITTEE

The report was accepted by motion. It was then moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that the recommendations of the Committee be given consideration at a later time in the day.

While the tellers were counting the ballots which had been cast for the election of a General Superintendent.

Mr. Rosapepe of Italy

was presented to the Council. He spoke through an interpreter, Mr. A. J. Perna, concerning the situation in Italy among Evangelicals. Mr. Rosapepe is an attorney, and although a Catholic, is attempting to aid the Italian people to obtain freedom of worship. He stated that in the past five years the Italian Pentecostal membership had grown to 80,000 and there are about 400 Pentecostal churches throughout Italy.

The motion was made by E. A. Balliet that in view of the effort Mr. Rosapepe has made in behalf of our Pentecostal Christians in Italy and his labors for years being without compensation, that this body offer to him a rising vote of thanks for his coming to America to report to us on the battle being waged for religious freedom in Italy, and that the Executive brethren give consideration to the matter of Mr. Rosapepe's personal expense for travel from Rome to Milwaukee, and by this gesture help our brother to understand that we appreciate the aid and legal advice shown to our Brother Gorietti and the pastors and congregations in Italy. The motion was seconded and passed.

At this point, the congregation joined in prayer for the Italian brethren, the prayer being led by H. M. Cadwalder, Sr.

The suggestion was then made that appreciation be shown to Brother Rosapepe in a tangible form and at the close of the service an offering be received at the exits for him. The offering amounted to \$324.30.

Election of General Superintendent

The tellers reported that on the seventh ballot 1,225 votes were cast, 817 being required for an election, and that Ralph M. Riggs had received 825 votes, thus electing him to the office of General Superintendent. Brother Riggs acknowledged the honor that had been conferred upon him and gave assurance he would serve faithfully in the responsibility which had been placed upon him. The congregation then arose and joined in singing, "Blest be the tie that binds."

Balloting for Four Assistant General Superintendents

Before the meeting was adjourned ballots were passed out for the nomination of four Assistant General Superintendents. The ballots were collected and it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, the business session to be opened at 9:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

TUESDAY MORNING

Following a brief devotional period, the council was opened for business at 9:30 a.m. The first item of business was the final report of the Roster Committee as follows:

Ordained Ministers & Missionaries registered	1,638
Delegates representing churches	351

Licensed Ministers	138
Visitors	563
Total Registration	2,690
Voting Constituency	1,989

The report of the Roster Committee was received with a vote of appreciation.

Election Assistant General Superintendents

The tellers reported the names of one hundred and six ministers who had been nominated for the offices of Assistant General Superintendent. 1027 ballots were cast, and 685 were required for an election. Three of the nominees were elected on the nominating ballot as follows: G. F. Lewis 923, Bert Webb 890, J. O. Savell 685.

When Brother Vogler was informed he had not received a sufficient number of votes on the nominating ballot for an election, he asked for the privilege of speaking, which was granted. He then stated he felt he had served the constituency for many years, and he would be very happy if his friends would transfer their support to one other of the nominees so that he could slip out of office quietly and another could be chosen to serve the fellowship.

Balloting was continued in accord with the rules for election in the By-Laws and Thomas F. Zimmerman was elected of the sixth ballot, receiving 599 votes of the 678 ballots cast.

Regional Representation on Executive Presbytery

Leonard Palmer called attention to the fact that in the past we have been electing non-resident Executive Presbyters at large, and it would be well to choose these officers to geographically represent the constituency. He then moved that Article II, Section 2, paragraph c of the By-Laws be amended to read: "They shall be nominated from the floor and be elected so as to geographically represent the constituency by a two-thirds vote in the same manner as provided for the presiding officers of the General Council." The motion was seconded and carried.

It was then suggested that the nominations be made by regions and the final decision was made that the country be divided in four parts and the regions be recognized as northeast, southeast, northwest, and southwest, and that the nominations be made by the delegates residing in these regions.

While the balloting was continued, resolutions were offered

affecting the Radio Program of the Assemblies God.

Resolutions on Radio

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented two resolutions affecting radio, the second one being amended slightly, and then adopted unanimously in this form:

Revivaltime Speaker

RESOLVED, That the speaker on REVIVALTIME be given full time responsibility to lead and to pastor REVIVALTIME and that he also be the field representative of the broadcast;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery survey the fellowship to select the man best suited to become the radio voice of the Assemblies of God.

Revivaltime—A Live Program

RESOLVED, That we place REVIVALTIME on a Live Broadcast over a national hook-up, continuing our foreign outlets as at present, and that this be done as soon as considered feasible and practicable by the Executive Presbytery.

Report of Committee on Education

Charles Scott recognized by name the members of the Committee on Education and then requested Theodore A. Kessel, who had served as secretary of the committee, to present the report of the committee, as follows:

WHEREAS, There is a great army of full gospel believing youth in our ranks

AND WHEREAS, They are entitled to and are pursuing courses of higher education in colleges outside our Christian confession,

AND WHEREAS, Many of them are being lost to our cause forever because of the philosophies, etc., with which they become indoctrinated,

AND WHEREAS, The District Council of Tennessee, the District Council of West Central, the District Council of Oregon, the District Council of Alabama, and the District Council of Michigan, have requested the same in regular sessions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this General Council in session authorize the setting up of a SENIOR COLLEGE PROGRAM, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a Committee of thirty-five (35) members, consisting of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council, the Administrative heads of the eleven endorsed schools of the General Council, the chairman of the Education Committee of the Gen-

eral Council, and eleven laymen (one to be chosen by the Board of Directors of each of the schools endorsed by the General Council) be empowered to set up this program as soon as possible.

Considerable discussion ensued, with strong sentiment being expressed both for and against the resolution. Finally it was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted and the motion carried.

Election of Additional Officers

J. Roswell Flower was elected General Secretary on the nominating ballot, receiving 500 of the 595 votes cast.

Since the method of electing a General Treasurer and a Foreign Missions Secretary is by ratification of the nominations made by the General Presbytery, E. A. Balliet moved that by acclamation of the Council the following nominees of the General Presbytery be elected:

Wilfred A. Brown, General Treasurer

Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Secretary, and Executive Director.

The motion was adopted and the selection of the two officers was ratified.

Election Non-Resident Executive Presbyters

The election of the four non-resident Executive Presbyters was then presented, and R. M. Riggs suggested a tentative method of geographical division for the nomination of candidates for the offices of non-resident Executive Presbyters. He named eleven districts for the Northwest, eleven for the Southwest, nine for the Northeast and ten for the Southeast. The motion was then made that for this General Council the suggestion made by Brother Riggs be followed, and that nominations be made and one member of the Executive Presbytery be elected from each of the four regions. The motion was adopted.

The decision was then made to defer the election of the four non-resident Executive Presbyters until the afternoon session.

Further Report Education Committee

Brother Charles Scott read the second resolution of the Committee on Education and moved its adoption, as follows:

WHEREAS, There is need of finances continually in our Bible Institute and Bible College fields, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the special committee on finance provided for by the General Presbytery make a study and/or appraisal of the appeals, needs, and expenditures of funds in our schools.

The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously.

Brother Bert Webb moved that the meeting be adjourned to reconvene at 3:00 p.m., and that the C. A. Vesper service be considered the devotional for the evening, to be followed by a business meeting, for the conclusion of the business of this Council. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The meeting was reconvened at 3:30 with Rev. A. L. Shell in charge of the singing of several choruses and leading in prayer.

The chair requested J. O. Savell to preside over the meeting.

It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that nominations be made by regions from the floor, and that the voting be by secret ballot.

Nominations were then made for the Northeast Regional Executive Presbyter as follows: James Van Meter, C. W. H. Scott, Roy Wead, W. R. Williamson, O. L. Harrup, E. A. Beck, Ernest Sumrall, Wallace Bragg and T. R. Brubaker. Ballots were then passed out by the tellers and collected.

Nominations were made for the Southeast Executive Presbyters as follows: D. P. Holloway, H. S. Bush, Edgar Bethany and James Hamill.

Nominations for the Southwest Executive Presbyter were A. A. Wilson, W. T. Gaston, V. G. Greisen, R. E. Goggin, E. L. Newby, M. B. Netzel, C. M. Ward, J. K. Gressett, L. E. Halvorson, B. Peterson, W. I. Evans.

The Nominations for the Executive Presbyter for the Northwest region were Atwood Foster, D. H. McLaughlin, R. G. Fulford, A. M. Alber, N. D. Davidson and Frank Lindquist.

While the ballots were being cast and counted for each of the regional Presbyters, the Council continued to do business. When the balloting was concluded it was found that the following had been elected:

D. H. McLaughlin for the Northwest region

A. A. Wilson for the Southwest region

Chas. W. H. Scott for the Northeast region

D. P. Holloway for the Southeast region.

Vote of Appreciation for Fred Vogler

Brother T. F. Zimmerman then stated that the Council express its appreciation for the years of service rendered by Fred Vogler to the constituency, and moved that Brother Fred Vogler be made an honorary member of the General Presbytery. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

It was then moved that an honorarium be given to Brother Vogler, the amount and nature of the honorarium to be decided by the Executive Presbytery. Brother Vogler stated that it is his desire to visit the work in New Zealand and Australia once more and that he is now free to make the journey. It was suggested that the honorarium take the form of a substantial sum toward his transportation to Australia. The motion was seconded and passed.

Inasmuch as it is the plan of Brother Vogler to visit New Zealand and Australia, shortly after his term of office is terminated, Bert Webb moved that this General Council send greetings by Brother Vogler from the Assemblies of God in America to the Assemblies of God constituency in New Zealand and Australia.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Report of Committee on Benevolences

Glenn Renick, chairman of the Committee on Benevolences, read the report of the Committee and offered the following resolutions:

1. Benevolence Fund

With a consciousness of the urgent need of stimulating interest in and support to the Benevolence Fund, we offer the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That each church in the fellowship of the Assemblies of God, and co-operating churches, continue to take two special offerings for the Benevolence Fund annually, as heretofore or as a substitute, to place the Benevolence Fund in its monthly budget.

2. General Council Home for Aged Ministers and Missionaries

The Pinellas Park Home in Florida is a home for the retired ministers and missionaries of the Assemblies of God, where a homelike atmosphere is provided for those who are unable to care for themselves. The privilege of this home is available to any of our retired ministers and missionaries. We feel that this information should be dispersed through our District papers and other suitable literature so that our ministers and

missionaries can take advantage of this privilege that is provided for them by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. We offer the following recommendations concerning this home:

RECOMMENDED, That the Pinellas Park Home be utilized, if need be by taking in boarding guests, until the space is needed for our ministers and missionaries.

RECOMMENDED FURTHER, That as soon as possible, and when funds are available the extra space around this Home be used for the erection of small cottages for aged couples who are able to do their own housekeeping.

3. District Council Homes for Aged Ministers

This committee recommends that interest be stimulated in the Districts, to sponsor homes for aged members and ministers of our constituency. Where possible, cabins should be built for those who are able to do their own housework, and not able to provide housing for themselves.

RECOMMENDED, 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 and maintenance; and that a copy or copies of the regulations be furnished each district.

4. General Council National Children's Home.

It is the finding of this committee that the National Children's Home is being operated efficiently and satisfactorily and we commend the Districts, the Women's Missionary Councils, churches and individuals who have so generously contributed to the support of this worthy home. If we can have a continuation of this splendid co-operation from these sources, the National Children's Home will continue to be a blessing to our constituency.

On motion, the report was received. It was then moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in this report be implemented by the Department of Benevolences. The motion passed.

Report of Committee on Convention Cities

Frank Grey presented the report of the committee which had been appointed to interview the representatives of convention cities who had presented invitations for the 1955 General Council. He stated that twelve invitations had been extended, in writing and verbally. The unanimous opinion of the committee was to approve either one of two cities,

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma or Long Beach, California. The report of the committee was accepted by motion.

T. E. Gannon moved that a committee be appointed for the purpose of studying the best time of year for the holding of General Councils, the committee to make its report at the General Council in 1955. The motion was seconded and passed.

Amendment to Article VI, Ministry

Resolution No. 11, which had been prepared by Leonard Palmer, was brought to the floor and read by Curtis Ringness, chairman of the Resolutions Committee as follows:

RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 2, Par. b, First of the By-Laws be amended by addition of the following: "They shall preach at least twenty times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity."

RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 2, Par. c, of the By-Laws be amended by the addition of the following: "They shall preach at least twelve times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity."

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article VI of the By-Laws entitled Ministry, Section 8, subsection b, lines 6, 7 and 8 be amended to read as follows: "Ministers who preach less than twenty-five times per year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for one year."

It was moved by Brother Palmer that this be referred to the General Presbytery for their meeting in 1954, with instructions to bring back a report at the 1955 General Council, and that it be made the first order of business. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. with G. F. Lewis presiding.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, There is an existent need for increase in the support of the headquarters office, and licensed ministers do share in the benefits and services rendered by this office

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Article XIV, Department of Finance, Sec. 2, dealing with the support of headquarters, be amended by inserting the word "ordained" preceding the word "minister" in the second sentence of paragraph a.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That following the second sentence of paragraph a of Section 2, the following sentence be inserted: "Each licensed minister should recognize his obligation to contribute from his tithes, or as an offering, or through his influence, the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) per month."

The motion was seconded and discussion followed. It was expressed by some that inasmuch as the licensed ministers could have no voice in the General Councils, since their relationship is primarily with the District Councils, it would be unfair to require this contribution from them. Therefore, when the vote was called for, the resolution was defeated.

Adoption of Children by Pentecostals

The chairman of the resolutions committee presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, There is evident unjust discrimination on the part of some Welfare Agency Authorities against members of the Pentecostal Faith in the matter of eligibility for the adoption of children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That a commission be appointed to ascertain our legal rights in the adoption of children, and our constituency be informed accordingly.

The motion was seconded and considerable discussion ensued. It was brought out that there is considerable lack of understanding among Pentecostal people as to the requirements for adoption. Loren Doss, who is president of an Evangelical Welfare Agency in Chicago, pointed out that the matter is not so much one of legality as it is of knowing how to work with and through an agency. He felt it would be well to encourage our Christian young people to prepare themselves for social welfare work, for our main hope of getting children adopted into Pentecostal homes lies in having Pentecostal welfare workers. In the state of Illinois, the requirement for becoming a social worker is seven years of college for a Master's degree, with a major in sociology.

It was moved by Leonard Palmer that an addition be made to the resolution to incorporate instruction to the Commission that it explore the entire field of welfare work as it pertains to the setting up of an agency of the Assemblies of God and the adoption of children by Pentecostal families.

The resolution, with the addition of the instruction to the Commission, as proposed by Leonard Palmer, was then adopted.

Resolutions of Appreciation

The chairman of the Resolution Committee then presented the following resolutions of appreciation, which were seconded and adopted:

RESOLVED, That we extend a vote of appreciation to Brother Robert Spencer, Superintendent of the Wisconsin and Northern Michigan District Council, the other officers and ministers of the Wisconsin and Northern Michigan District Council, the local pastors, congregations and committees, for their cordial hospitality extended to the 25th session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLVED, That this General Council hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation for the kind and generous hospitality extended by the Honorable Mr. Frank Zeidler, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee; the Association of Commerce, the Convention Bureau, The Milwaukee Sentinel and the Milwaukee Journal, for the general publicity given to the convention.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That letters expressing our appreciation be written to each of the parties named in the foregoing.

Concluding Resolutions

The motion was made, seconded and carried that in the preparation of the 1953 General Council Minutes, the General Secretary prepare an index.

Motion was made to change the wording in Article XIX, (Article XXII of Revised By-Laws) Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, Sec. 2, line 2 substituting the words "has caused" for the words "is causing." The motion carried.

It was moved and the motion was seconded that the General Secretary be instructed to publish annually a Directory of Churches. The motion carried.

Chas. W. H. Scott moved that General Council go on record as assuring our President of our prayers in his behalf and our appreciation for his service to the nation in these serious days, and that the Secretary send to the President a suitable expression of this action. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. with prayer by R. M. Riggs, General Superintendent elect, and the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

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

26 — Sept. 2, 1953

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

Whereas, It is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall constitute the body or church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; and

Whereas, The members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, 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 unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the 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 unscriptural 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; 8:57, 58; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:2.

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

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

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.

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

4. The Salvation of Man.

a. Conditions to Salvation.

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

b. The Evidences of Salvation.

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

5. Baptism in Water.

The ordinance of Baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed, as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Saviour and Lord. In so doing, they have the body washed in pure water as an outward symbol of cleansing, while their hearts have 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 evangelization of the world, and (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ. Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-13.

12. Divine Healing.

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

13. The Blessed Hope.

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51, 52.

14. The Millennial Reign of Jesus.

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on the earth 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 prose-

cute 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 Department 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 unscriptural 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 nomi-

nated from the floor and shall be elected so as to geographically represent the constituency 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 Presbyter shall move to another District or shall vacate his office for any other reason, the Presbytery of the District Council shall appoint one to serve as General Presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next 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 appoint Executive Directors of the various departments of the General Council from among the Executive Officers, with the co-operation and advice of those members of the Executive Presbytery who are not Executive Officers.

f. 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.

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

h. 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 treasurer'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 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 securities 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 Presbyters shall communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before final action shall be taken.

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

j. The Executive Presbyters 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 reside at headquarters shall constitute a Credentials Committee. They shall have authority to issue certificates of ordination to approved ministers, who have District Council endorsement, and to issue annual fellowship certificates.

Section 3. Roster Committee.

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with responsibility of examining 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 Presbyters of the General Council.

Section 2. Officers.

Each District Council shall be authorized to elect Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer and Presbyters 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 devel-

oped 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 a person living in the state of matrimony where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion 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 adjudged 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 compiled by the Credentials Committee of the General Council and published for the convenience of all concerned. The list shall show whether or not each minister is giving full time to his or her ministry. This official list shall be revised annually, and shall include only the names of those ministers to whom certificates of fellowship have been issued for the current year.

b. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry 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 Officiary.

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

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.

D E P A R T M E N T S

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 General Superintendent in consultation with the

Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as Executive Director of the Department. The Home Missions Committee shall consist of the Executive Director and four others who are appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Executive Director and approved by the General Presbytery.

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 pro-

mote 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. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization.

There shall be an Education Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the promotion of the educational activities of the Assemblies of God. This responsibility shall include schools for the academic education of our members, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, correspondence schools, and general ministerial training.

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 Education Department, and all its divisions, shall be vested in, and committed to the Executive Presbytery which shall serve as the Committee on Education. The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as Executive Director of the Department. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Secretary of Education who shall serve as the head of the Education Department.

The Department shall be strengthened by an advisory committee consisting of the executive heads of District and General Council schools, whose duties shall be to provide helpful counsel and general assistance in standardizing, coordinating 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 Executive Director of the Education Department, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. They shall continue in office for two years or until their successors are chosen.

Section 3. Academic Schools.

The Education Department shall be charged with the general supervision of all academic institutions of learning, including Christian day schools, which are operated by and for the Assemblies of God.

General supervision of the academic school work carried on by and for the members of the Assemblies of God shall be vested in the Education 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 Education 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 General Council shall be recognized as approved by the General Council unless and until it conforms to the standards erected for such institutions by the Education Department and has been approved by such Department. The Education Department shall issue yearly certificates of endorsement to academic institutions meeting its standard for endorsement.

Section 4. General Ministerial Training.

It shall be the prerogative of the Education Department to prepare reading and correspondence courses and to promote short, intensive ministers' institutes and seminars for the development of the ministries of those who have been unable to attend our Bible schools, and for the ministers of the Assemblies of God in general.

Section 5. Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges.

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

b. The Education Department shall have the right to erect standards to which all Bible schools 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 conduct, discipline, practical Christian work, social life, health conditions, etc. The Education Department shall issue yearly certificates of endorsement to schools meeting its standard for endorsement.

c. It shall be the responsibility of the Education Department to seek to maintain a high level of spirituality in all our Bible schools 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 education and administrative efficiency in the various schools.

d. It shall also be the prerogative of the Education Department to seek to provide our own textbooks for our Bible schools. General responsibility for the welfare and development of our Bible school system as a whole, for the spiritual education and training of all candidates for Christian service, and for the stimulation of the needed interest and support of this work among our constituency shall be vested in the Education Department.

Section 6. Central Bible Institute.

a. The Committee on Education 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 Education 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. SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and Organization.

a. There shall be a Sunday School Department of the General Council which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday schools and other church schools of a non-academic nature throughout the fellowship. The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as the Director of the Department.

b. There shall be a Secretary of the Sunday School Department to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. The Secretary of the Department together with four others appointed by the Executive Director in co-operation with the Secretary shall constitute the Sunday School Committee.

Section 2. Purpose.

- The purpose of the Sunday School Department shall be:
- a. To assist district and local Sunday School organizations in setting up effective programs.
 - b. To promote and conduct Sunday School conventions on a national and regional basis.
 - c. To encourage and conduct training programs for teachers and workers.
 - d. To produce manuals, handbooks, brochures and literature of a promotional nature.
 - e. To assist in the organization and development of Vacation Bible Schools and other educational activities of the local church.

ARTICLE XII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Authorization.

There shall be a Department of Publications which shall serve the fellowship and to which shall be committed:

- a. The preparation and publication of THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, curricular material and other literature for church schools, and such other periodicals and publications as may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. The management and operation of the Gospel Publishing House with its printing and distributing facilities.

Section 2. Management and Control.

- a. The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as Executive Director of the Department. The Executive Director shall serve as head of the Publications Department and Chairman of the Publications Committee.
- b. There shall be a Publications Committee which shall serve with the Director of Publications in the management and control of the Department of Publications. This committee shall be composed of the Director of Education, the Treasurer of the General Council, the Manager of the Gospel Publishing House, the Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, the Editor of Church School Publications, and the Director of the Sunday School Department.
- c. The Manager of the Gospel Publishing House, the Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, and the Editor of Church School Publications, shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery subject to the approval of the General Presbytery.
- d. The Department of Publications shall be amenable to the

Executive Presbytery to whom all matters of importance shall be submitted for Executive approval.

Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel

The PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL shall be the official organ of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be published in the interests of the fellowship and for the propagation of our distinctive testimony.

Section 4. The Gospel Publishing House

The Gospel Publishing House, its plant and equipment, the promotion and expansion of its periodicals and publication, and its general business interests, shall be under the supervision of the Department of Publications and shall be operated for the benefit of the Assemblies of God fellowship.

ARTICLE XIII. 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 in consultation with the members of the Executive Presbytery who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as Executive Director 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 Executive Presbytery 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 organizations 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 XIV. 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 XV. 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 co-operation 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 XVI. DEPARTMENT OF BENEVOLENCES

Section 1. Authorization.

There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall

have the responsibility of administration of the Ministers' Benevolent 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 needs.

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 Officiary.

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.

Each church in the fellowship of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the co-operating churches shall take two special offerings annually for Benevolence, or shall put the Benevolent Fund into its monthly budget.

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.

It is recommended that the Pinellas Rest Home be utilized if need be by receiving boarding guests, until such space is

needed for our ministers and missionaries.

It is further recommended, that as soon as possible, and when funds are available, the extra space around the Pinellas Park Home be used for the erection of small cottages for aged couples who are able to do their own housekeeping.

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.

It is recommended that a general policy for the maintenance of 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; and that a copy or copies of the regulations be furnished each district.

ARTICLE XVII. WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization.

a. There shall be a Women's Missionary Council Department of the General Council which shall serve to promote and synchronize the work which may be done by the women of our fellowship with the needs of the Foreign Missions and Benevolence Departments.

b. The Director of the Women's Missionary Council Department shall be known as the National Secretary of the Women's Missionary Council and shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. The National Secretary, together with the Foreign Missions Secretary, the Home Missions Secretary and two other persons resident in Springfield, Missouri to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, shall constitute the Women's Missionary Council Committee. This committee shall be responsible for all decisions concerning policy. The department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

c. It shall be the duty of the National Secretary to promote the work of the Women's Missionary Council on a national scale; to set a standard of spiritual ministry in personal work and intercession as the principal aim of the WMC; to offer encouragement and assistance for the efficient operation of the local district councils and to guide the regulation and unification of all WMC activities.

Section 2. Departmental Functions.

a. To encourage local WMC groups, in co-operation with district WMC officers, for the maintaining of high standards of spiritual ministry, and to encourage faithfulness in the execution of assigned projects which shall include definite projects for home and foreign missions, assistance to benevolent homes for the care of children and the aged, etc.

b. To keep in touch with present needs of our missionaries, their stations, and our benevolent homes, distributing the projects to the various district and local organizations, so that the needs may be met quickly and equitably, and that each district and local group may carry its proportionate share of service.

c. To conduct WMC conventions, seminars and rallies for the purpose of stimulating interest and disseminating information concerning the work of the Women's Missionary Council.

d. To prepare and publish handbooks and manuals, and to issue such bulletins as may be needed to carry out the above program.

e. To publicize the work of the Women's Missionary Council through the mediums of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, THE MISSIONARY CHALLENGE, and other periodicals as opportunity is afforded.

ARTICLE XVIII. MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization.

a. There shall be a Men's Fellowship Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the promotion, encouragement and co-ordination of local and district organizations of Men's Fellowships in the Assemblies of God.

b. The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbyters who are not Executive Officers shall appoint one of the Executive Officers of the General Council as Executive Director of the Department. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a National Secretary of this Department, who shall be given the responsibility for the general promotion of the work of the department. He shall be assisted by a committee of four, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. This committee shall be responsible for all decisions affecting policy. The department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

Section. 2. Departmental Functions.

The purpose of the Men's Fellowship in general is to pro-

mote the forming of fellowship groups among men in local churches with the end in view of co-ordinating the interest and assistance of men in all assembly activities, such as definite assistance for the pastor in church projects, personal witnessing to men for Christ, a paternal interest in and care for the boys of the church, participation in benevolent enterprises.

For the accomplishment of its purposes, the department shall be authorized to prepare and publish handbooks and manuals, and to issue such bulletins as may be needed to further the cause of fellowship and united effort among the men of the Assemblies of God churches.

ARTICLE XIX. 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 XX. 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 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;

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 XXI. 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 XXII. 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, has caused 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 9:62), and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (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. (2 Cor. 6:14). Moreover, the spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aims at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Cor. 2:14; Col. 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 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 (2 Cor. 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Tim. 4:12; 2 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 be-

lief 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 the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord and not 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 Officer
- (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 XXIII. 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 XXIV. 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 XXV. 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.

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