

MINUTES and CONSTITUTION

WITH BYLAWS, REVISED

Assemblies of God

THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL COUNCIL

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma September 1-6, 1955

0481-032

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

Convened at
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
September 1-6, 1955

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-sixth 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

Bert Webb Assistant General Superintendent
Sunday School, Evangelism, General Services

Gayle F. Lewis Assistant General Superintendent
Home Missions, Women's Missionary Council, Minister's
Benefit Association

Thomas F. Zimmerman Assistant General Superintendent
Christ's Ambassadors, Men's Fellowship, Radio

James O. Savell Assistant General Superintendent
Gospel Publishing House

J. Roswell Flower General Secretary
Education, Church School Literature, Pentecostal Evangel

Atwood Foster General Treasurer
Benevolences

Noel Perkin Foreign Missions

Executive Presbytery

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

**THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT OKLAHOMA
CITY, OKLAHOMA**

September 1-6, 1955

The Twenty-sixth General Council of the Assemblies of God was opened in the Municipal Auditorium, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Thursday night, September 1, 1955 at 7:30 with a great youth rally. The Christ's Ambassadors, youth organization of the Assemblies of God, had charge of the service. Rev. Dick Fulmer, National Christ's Ambassadors Secretary led the service and Rev. Paul Paino, pastor in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was the speaker. The Honorable Raymond Gary, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, was introduced, and he warmly and sincerely welcomed the convention delegates and visitors. He affirmed, "When we can't find a solution to the problems we're facing, we can turn to God and we'll come up with the right answers."

The auditorium, seating some 6,500, was filled to capacity and several hundred heard the service over the public-address system in the Mirror Room.

Morning prayer meetings, presided over by Rev. A. A. Wilson, of Kansas City, Missouri, were held daily in the Mirror Room at 8:00 a.m. The spiritual tide was high throughout the convention as the Holy Spirit richly anointed each speaker and service.

FRIDAY MORNING

The business meetings of the twenty-sixth General Council were opened at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 2. The Rev. R. M. Riggs cordially welcomed the ministers, delegates and visitors in attendance at this great gathering. The Honorable Allen Street, Mayor of the City of Oklahoma City, addressed the assembled group and extended an official welcome to the General Council convention city. Rev. Robert E. Goggin, Oklahoma District Superintendent, also welcomed the convention delegates on behalf of the members of 480 Assemblies of God churches in Oklahoma.

Telegrams of greeting, coming from all parts of the world were read. Dr. C. M. Wortman, Secretary of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and Evangelist W. A. Thompson of

the Assemblies of God in Australia, brought greetings in person.

The convention keynote address was then delivered by the General Superintendent, R. M. Riggs. His challenging message on the theme, "Call to Conquest," was received with marked enthusiasm, after which the morning meeting was adjourned with prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon service opened with Rev. Riggs introducing a novel feature called, "The General Council in Review." The heads of the sixteen General Council departments and their national secretaries were introduced and each gave a brief talk describing the goals of his department and its relationship to the Council as a whole.

Departmental Reports

The business session convened at 3:00 p.m. with R. M. Riggs, General Superintendent, serving as chairman. After prayer by G. F. Lewis, Assistant General Superintendent, the first order of business was the reading of the report of the General Superintendent, which report was accepted by motion. The report of the General Secretary was read by J. R. Flower and accepted as read. In the absence of W. A. Brown, General Treasurer (who was unable to attend the General Council due to illness), H. M. Myers read the report of the General Treasurer. He also called attention to the graphs showing a detailed break-down of the financial condition of the General Council departments. This report was also accepted by motion.

It was then moved to send a telegram to W. A. Brown and express to him the appreciation, love and sympathy of the body. It was suggested that the message inform him of his nomination to office of General Treasurer by a nearly unanimous vote. This telegram was sent by J. R. Flower. Special prayer was then offered for Brother Brown.

Committees

The names of the chairmen and personnel of the General Council Committees were as follows:

General Council Reports

Kermit Reneau, chairman; Walter Dixon, Thomas Brubaker, Wallace Bragg, Robert Carrington

Christ's Ambassadors

Dean F. Duncan, chairman; R. Delbert Turner, James M. Cason, Gerald B. Balus, Edwin C. Schmid, Richard C. Fulmer, Thomas F. Zimmerman.

Education

Theodore A. Kessel, chairman; O. Cope Budge, Cyril E. Homer, Charles F. Butterfield, Jr., Klaude Kendrick, J. Robert Ashcroft, Loren E. Doss, E. Elsworth Krogstad.

Evangelism

Stephen Vandermerwe, chairman; Don Mallough, Arthur S. Arnold, John H. Bostrom, Roy H. Wead, Richard R. Vinyard.

Foreign Missions

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; R. J. Bergstrom, J. Boyd Wolverton, Melvin L. Hodges, Ralph D. Williams, Carl D. Holleman, Leonard Nipper, Noel Perkin.

Home Missions

Theo. E. Gannon, chairman; Robert L. Brandt, Kenneth M. Haystead, Grady L. Fannin, Curtis W. Ringness, Victor D. Trimmer.

Men's Fellowship

H. Paul Holdridge, Chairman; Marcus T. Gaston, A. A. Wilson, Nick Timko, Henry Krause, George Blaine, Doyle Burgess, Don Mallough.

Ministerial Relations

Frank Gray, chairman; James W. McClellan, Joseph P. Wannenmacher, R. C. Schachterle, W. W. Hurston, Oscar C. Arneson.

Radio

Howard Bush, chairman; U. S. Grant, E. R. Foster, N. D. Davidson, Wilfred A. Brown, E. M. Clark.

Resolutions

Emil A. Balliet, chairman; Joseph R. Flower, Edgar W. Bethany, T. M. Kimberlin, T. J. Gotcher, B. L. Green, Jack Fellers, Wilson A. Katter, Carl E. Reynolds.

Program

B. Owen Oslin, chairman; Orie L. Robinson, James B. McKeehan, James R. Swanson, Ira F. Stanphill, Eugene A. Born.

Roster

Arthur F. Berg, chairman; Edward J. Schlossmacher, J. Wesley Collins, Paul W. Savage, Owen S. Hodges, James C. Dodd.

Tellers

James C. Dodd and Oliver D. Collier, co-chairman; Herbert Eicher, Ernest Manley, Hansel Vibbert, Kenneth Barney, Owen Carr, Maurice Cadwalder, Murray McLees, Harvey J. Jackson, George Flower, Earl Adamson, James Kofahl, S. H. Petersen, William Paris, Walter Buck, Norman Gardner, George Gould, Gene Putnam, E. E. Noland, Thomas Waldron, James O. Johnson, James Chesier, S. K. Biffle, Jr., Ernest Eskelin, C. E. Bell, Lloyd Logan, Edwin L. Black, William Van Winkle.

General Council Reports Committee

Rev. Kermit A. Reneau, chairman of the General Council Reports Committee, reported as follows:

The General Council Reports Committee met Thursday afternoon, September 1, as instructed by the Executive Presbytery. The members of the committee examined the reports of the various departments and found them presented in an orderly and satisfactory manner. Since each registered delegate to the General Council has been furnished a printed copy of the reports, we recommend the following:

RESOLVED, That the combined Departmental Reports be accepted as submitted to the General Council in session in the printed brochure.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Two representatives of the National Association of Evangelicals were introduced, Mr. George L. Ford, Associate Executive Director of the N. A. E., and the Reverend David Macy. Mr. Ford addressed the General Council briefly, acknowledging the contributions the Assemblies of God have made to the N.A.E. and urged that all our pastors take advantage of the various opportunities and services that are available through the Association.

A preliminary report of the Roster Committee showed that a total of 3,345 had already registered.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. with prayer by Mr. E. S. Christoffersen, Mayor of Turlock, California and an active Assemblies of God layman.

SATURDAY MORNING

Following the regular devotional service, presided over by

Rev. James McKeehan, of Houston, Texas, the business meeting opened at 10:15 a.m. with the General Superintendent, R. M. Riggs, in the chair. The minutes of the previous session were read by the General Secretary.

Inactive Ministers

Reference was made to a motion at the 1953 General Council to the effect that the first order of business at this General Council be proposed changes in ARTICLE VI of the Bylaws, pertaining to the ministry, especially relative to inactive ministers. J. R. Flower read the proposed amendment to Article VI and then moved that the recommendations be considered one by one. This motion was seconded and carried.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the first section be adopted, as follows:

RESOLVED: That Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph b, First, of the Bylaws be amended by addition of the following: "They shall preach at least twenty times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity." Part two of the resolution was adopted by motion as follows:

RESOLVED: That Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph c, of the Bylaws 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."

In giving consideration to the third part of the proposed Bylaws amendments, the motion was made to delete from the Bylaws, Article VI, Section 8, paragraph b, lines 6 and 7, the words "or conduct gospel services." The motion was adopted.

A further amendment was offered to Article VI, Section 8, paragraph b, the sentence reading: "It shall be understood that this shall not apply to inactivity caused by infirmity of old age or ill health" shall have added to it, "or to those who are in other full-time ministry." The motion carried.

It was moved, and the motion prevailed, that the phrase "or engaged in other full-time ministry" be added to Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph b, First, as amended in this session.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that these amendments which have been considered one by one be passed as a whole. The General Secretary was instructed to edit the amendments as necessary.

It was moved that Agenda item VIII E, Report of the Financial Appeals Committee, be scheduled for action in the afternoon session at 3 o'clock, at which time copies of the report will be ready for distribution. The motion prevailed.

Assistant General Superintendent T. F. Zimmerman reported on the work of the committee appointed to study the matter of the time for holding the General Councils. In an attempt to decide the time of the year most desirable to the greatest number, a poll had been taken by mail. As a result, it was found that three dates were indicated as those preferred. Ballots were handed to the delegates and they were asked to indicate their preference.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

From 1:30 to 2:30 the delegates divided into workshop groups. The business session was called to order by the General Superintendent at 2:55 with Rev. Atwood Foster, Oregon District Superintendent, leading in prayer.

Report of Financial Appeals Committee

In accordance with the action in the morning session, The report of the Committee on Financial Appeals was taken up. R. M. Riggs gave a report of the background and activities of this committee. It was stated that the committee was created as a result of an expressed feeling at the 1953 General Council against multiplied appeals from our General Headquarters to our churches for the support of the various programs of our movement.

Copies of the report were distributed and the chairman of the committee, Atwood Foster, read the reports, as follows:

Your Committee on Financial Appeals was created as the result of an expressed feeling at the Milwaukee General Council against the multiplied appeals from our General Headquarters to our churches for the support of the various programs of our movement.

In order to obtain information to work with, a survey of a cross section of our constituency was made. 2,500 questionnaires were sent out to our ministers. Approximately 500 were returned. While there was a division of opinion on a

method of support, 75% of those who answered were in favor of the churches supporting headquarters with a small percentage of their income.

A large percentage of those who responded also stated that, even though authorized by the General Councils in session, we had created too much organization at headquarters, which necessitated the present need for further finances. This opinion was made known to some of our leaders, and we find that our brethren who serve this fellowship in Springfield are seeking to effect economies in the administration of the affairs of our organization.

The failure on the part of 20% of the ordained ministers who made no contribution to headquarters in the past year, added to the present need. These ministers who are able, should be encouraged to support headquarters systematically.

Inasmuch as our headquarters has had no other provision for its support outside of the ministers' offerings, the appeals have been and will continue to be a necessity until some other method of support is devised.

It is the opinion of this committee that each church should support their headquarters on a systematic basis.

After studying the report of the Evaluation Committee, it is also felt that some changes in the organizational structure at headquarters would result in further economies in personnel and operation without impairing its services to our movement.

A reduction in the number and size of various conventions outside of the biennial convention of the General Council will effect further savings.

Since licensed ministers are eligible for group insurance and are also beneficiaries of all the services of our headquarters, it is our opinion that they should be encouraged to support headquarters on the basis of one dollar each month.

In addition, it is felt that headquarters should seek to operate on a balanced budget. The Gospel Publishing House profits should be set aside towards the erection of the new administration building.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Article 11, Section 2, Paragraph a of the Bylaws be amended as follows: By the substitution of the words, "ordained ministers" for the words, "every minister," and by the substitution of the sum of \$2.00 for the present \$1.50.

2. By inserting the sentence, "Licensed ministers should contribute the sum of \$1.00 per month."
3. By the addition of the following: "Each District shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and in the light of their knowledge of local situations, determine if the minister has been voluntarily co-operating with the General Council financial program."
4. That Article 15, Section 2, Paragraph b, be deleted and the following substitution made, "Each Assembly should share in the ministry of the General Council by contributing 1% of its gross income, or the equivalent thereof, monthly to the General Headquarters budget."
5. That this General Council go on record as favoring a re-organization of headquarters departments on the principle of the following or more closely related divisions according to the judgment of the Executive Presbytery:
 - A. **WORLD MISSIONS DIVISION (The Commission)**
 - Foreign Missions Department
 - Home Missions Department
 - Radio Department
 - Evangelism Department
 - B. **LOCAL CHURCH DIVISION (Conserving the Gains)**
 - Sunday School Department
 - Christ's Ambassadors Department
 - Women's Missionary Council Department
 - Men's Fellowship Department
 - C. **EDUCATION DIVISION (Training the Workers)**
 - Bible Institutes and Colleges
 - Senior Colleges
 - Academic Schools
 - Correspondence Schools
 - D. **PUBLICATIONS DIVISION (Publishing the Message)**
 - Gospel Publishing House
 - Pentecostal Evangel
 - Church School Publications
 - Editorial

The Finance, Central Accounting, and Benevolence Departments shall be operated under the office of GENERAL TREASURER.

The Personnel, Public Relations, and Purchasing Departments shall be operated under the oversight of the Executive Presbytery.

(NOTE: The thinking of your committee is that these divisions

should become overall departments with the present departments becoming sub-departments.)

6. That in respect to churches that are giving 1% of their income to the support of the headquarters service departments, appeals shall be limited to the World Missions Division and Benevolence.
7. That in keeping with these recommendations, ways and means be sought to reduce personnel, numbers of conventions, overlapping of promotion and the multiplicity of bookkeeping and accounting divisions with the final goal of balancing the budget without subsidies, as illustrated below:

BALANCING THE 1955-1956 GENERAL COUNCIL BUDGET

Gross Operations Expense		\$1,536,566.00
Self-Sustaining or anticipated incomes:		
Radio	\$452,415.00	
Executive Office	215,050.00	
Speed-the Light (5%)	21,600.00	
Foreign Missions (5%)	185,500.00	
Purchasing Department	39,450.00	
Sunday School Department	53,550.00	
		<hr/>
		\$967,565.00
Income from present appeals:		
Benevolence Office expense	14,000.00	
C. A. & Servicemen's Dept.	62,100.00	
Education	1,400.00	
Home Missions Office	14,040.00	
Men's Fellowship	6,200.00	
Women's Missionary Council	19,000.00	
		<hr/>
	116,740.00	
Gospel Pub. House subsidy	452,261.00	569,001.00
		<hr/>
		\$1,536,566.00
Suggested program to replace appeals:		
1% of \$50,000,000 (Gross Income of 7,000 Assemblies).	500,000.00	
\$1.00 per month from 65% of 4,642 licensed ministers.	36,000.00	
Increase in giving of Ordained		

Ministers (\$1.50 raised to \$2.00)	25,000.00		
Possible income from ministers who did not contribute last year	8,001.00	569,001.00	\$1,536,566.00

It was moved and carried to consider the report point by point. Part 1 of the resolution was considered, as follows:

RESOLVED, that Article XV, Section 2, Paragraph a of the Bylaws be amended as follows: By the substitution of the words, "ordained ministers" for the words, "every minister," and by the substitution of the sum of \$2.00 for the present \$1.50.

The motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Part 2 of the report. An amendment was offered to substitute \$1.50 for \$1.00 per month. After some discussion the motion prevailed. It was felt that although the licensed ministers have no vote at General Council, they do share in the General Council benefits, especially in the group insurance which is subsidized by the General Council to the amount of \$1.09 per month. When put to vote, the resolution with its amendment carried, as follows:

RESOLVED, That Article XV, Section 2, Paragraph a, of the Bylaws be amended by inserting the sentence, "Licensed ministers should contribute the sum of \$1.50 per month."

Part 3 was considered and adopted by motion with no debate.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Part 4 of the report which recommended that each church share in the ministry of the General Council by contributing 1% of its gross income, or the equivalent thereof, monthly to the headquarters budget. Considerable debate followed with strong sentiment both for and against the motion. Some felt the churches should be charged with a more definite responsibility to the Headquarters offices; others, that we cannot coerce them, they must give on a free-will offering basis.

It was moved to table Part 4 until Part 5 had been acted on by the body. The motion was sustained.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Part 5, and considerable discussion ensued. There seemed to arise confusion from the fact that a "reorganization of headquarters departments" was favored. The matter was better understood when the item was reworded and the word "realignment" substituted for

"reorganization." During debate, members of the committee made explanations of the purpose of the committee which had served since the 1953 General Council to study the matter of financial appeals. The objective was the elimination of so many appeals made by mail out of Headquarters to the pastors and churches. The committee felt that the recommendation that churches contribute 1% of their gross income was the churches' effort to meet the need; and the realignment of Headquarters departments into divisions is the Headquarters' effort to cut down overhead.

The motion to adopt Part 5 was sustained.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. with prayer by R. M. Riggs.

SUNDAY SERVICES

All business was set aside for a full day devoted to spiritual ministry, fellowship and inspiration. Thousands gathered in the Municipal Auditorium at 10:00 a.m. for a great memorial and worship service. A sweet spirit of devotion to the Lord characterized the entire service presided over by Assistant General Superintendent, G. F. Lewis. The General Secretary, J. R. Flower, read the names of one hundred and nine ordained ministers and missionaries who had gone to their eternal reward since the last General Council. The congregation stood in silent prayer for a minute; then W. T. Gaston, Northern California-Nevada District Superintendent, led in prayer asking God to keep us true until the hour when we too would be called home.

Charles W. H. Scott, Michigan District Superintendent, preached from Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. . . ." The service closed with communion served by the General Presbyters.

The roll of honor was as follows:

DECEASED

General Council 1953 to General Council 1955
 Anderson, Irma E. (Mrs. Edwin P.), Toledo, Ohio
 Baird, Edna May (Mrs. Harry A.), Seminole, Okla.
 Barger, John J., Tacoma, Washington
 Beck, H. G., Palermo, California
 Bersinger, Loyd E., Los Gatos, California

Besaw, Fredrick J., Claremont, New Hampshire
 Blaisdell, George E., Gresham, Oregon
 Bolton, Wilma B., Granite City, Illinois
 Bostwick, Donald D., Geneva, Ohio
 Bradley, Mrs. Hazel, Auburn, California
 Brothers, Harry L., Columbia, Pennsylvania
 Buckland, Mrs. Elizabeth, Mishawaka, Indiana
 Bullock, Marthel (Mrs. Relna), Westport, Oregon
 Burch, Wiley, Eureka Springs, Arkansas
 Chandler, Samuel E., Quincy, Florida
 Chisolm, Thomas C., Fort Worth, Texas
 Clopine, George W., Chanute, Kansas
 Cunningham, Mrs. Lydia J., Mt. Carmel, Illinois
 Davis, Earl F., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Davis, Matthew P., Victoria, Texas
 Dickinson, Virgil C., Seattle, Washington
 Edgemon, Frank R., Ellensburg, Washington
 Elliott, Mrs. Anna B., Grandview, Missouri
 Evans, W. I., Springfield, Missouri
 Ferguson, Mrs. Mary B., Pueblo, Colorado
 Finch, Clinton E., Liberty, South Carolina
 Frank, Leon J., Eaton, Ohio
 Frey, Mrs. Mae Eleanor, Stamford, Connecticut
 Fry, George H., Rolla, Missouri
 Gopperton, A. Victor, Dayton, Ohio
 Greer, Beulah (Mrs. Hudnell), Leesville, Louisiana
 Gulino, Biagio, Montebello, California
 Ham, J. Clark, Collinsville, Ill.
 Hance, Earl J., Lorain, Ohio
 Hankins, Robert Q., Corsicana, Texas
 Hanson, Carl M., Braham, Minnesota
 Harer, Marie F. (Mrs. R. J.), Bakersfield, California
 Heinisch, Peter, Ashley, North Dakota
 Hill, Lewis A., Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania
 Holloway, D. P., West Palm Beach, Florida
 Horst, A. R., Penney Farms, Florida
 Howard, Johnnie J., Jacksonville, Florida
 Jacinto, Cecilio, Eagle Pass, Texas
 Johns, K. D., Marianna, Florida
 Johnson, Mrs. D. M., Galena Park, Texas
 Kerner, Charles, Arcata, California
 Kesler, J. D., Cando, North Dakota
 Klink, Otto J., Redlands, California
 Linn, John A., Miami, Oklahoma

Lisciandrello, Dominick, San Jose, California
 Little, William W., Morrilton, Arkansas
 Lohmann, Fred, St. Louis, Missouri
 Lonsford, James F., Talco, Texas
 McCoy, Henry E., Shubuta, Mississippi
 Mahaney Marjory, Glendale, California
 Malachuk, Stephen C., Livingston, New Jersey
 Martin, John C., Hayward, California
 Matlock, William E., Flint, Michigan
 May, R. Fleming, Vancouver, B. C.
 Menchaca Severo, L., Dallas, Texas
 Michener Russell S., Fort Worth, Texas
 Miller, Joshua F., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Miller, Zera P., Santa Cruz, California
 Montgomery, Hugh Y., Houston, Texas
 Morgan, Meda (Mrs. J. H.), Ames, Oklahoma
 Most, Mrs. Laura H., Bellflower, California
 Murphy, Herchel, Lubbock, Texas
 Myers, British H., Moody, Texas
 Nelson, John C., Lakeport, California
 Ohlin Peter, East Nekoosa, Wisconsin
 Paddock, Mark B., Kansas City, Missouri
 Panattoni, Joseph, Corona, California
 Patterson, George M., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Payne, George W., Palmyra, Indiana
 Pinson, Ruth A. (Mrs. M. M.), Oildale, California
 Pletcher, Gerald A., Milan Tenn.
 Radford, Earl R., Prineville, Oregon
 Rawle, Mrs. Dora E., Bridgeport, Texas
 Raymond, Mary B. (Mrs. J. E.), Montrose, Colorado
 Ridener, L. M., Amarillo, Texas
 Rilea, J. Willis, Anacortes, Washington
 Roberson, Bert C., Tempe, Arizona
 Robinson Charles E., Springfield, Missouri
 Roseberry, James L., Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 Rutherford, Major C., Elgin, Texas
 Sandefer, Joseph M., St. Louis, Missouri
 Sanders, Edward F., Jefferson City, Missouri
 Shelton, Jonah L., Phoenix, Arizona
 Shirley, Mrs. Grace M., Whitefield, New Hampshire
 Smith, James B., Teague, Texas
 Smith, John, Houston, Texas
 Smith William I., Corona, New Mexico
 Smuland, Roy, Worcester, Massachusetts

Snider, Tice (Mathias), Byesville, Ohio
 Stanley, Howard D., Mountainburg, Arkansas
 Stenberg, Hilmer L. Yakima, Washington
 Stinchcomb, Vernon B., Orange, Virginia
 Suhan, Andrew, Cleveland, Ohio
 Thompson, Matthew L., Jacksonville, Florida
 Turnbull, Josephine E. (Mrs. L. F.), Los Angeles, California
 VanMeter, Flem, Green Lane, Pennsylvania
 Wharton, John B., Andrews, Texas
 White, Lionel H., Stockton, California
 Whittington, Theodore R., Marrilton, Arkansas
 Wilder, Jesse C., Fort Worth, Texas

Missionaries

Doney, Charles W. (Egypt)
 Gollan, Ada (Liberia)
 Hixenbaugh, Carl W. (Liberia)
 Wingard, Adolph (Liberia)

The Auditorium overflowed for the Sunday afternoon Missionary Rally. More than a hundred missionaries in native dress filled the platform. Miss Lillian Trasher, "Nile Mother," gave a farewell message after several months touring the Fellowship throughout the nation. Glenn Horst brought a forceful message of missionary challenge, after which an offering of \$39,068.05 was received.

More than 12,500 gathered at the Fair Grounds for the Sunday night evangelistic rally. It was said to be the largest religious gathering in the history of Oklahoma City. The Honorable Robert S. Kerr, U. S. Senator from Oklahoma, spoke briefly on the subject, "God and Man." The main sermon of the evening was delivered by D. Leroy Sanders, pastor in Cincinnati, Ohio. His subject was, "The Continuing Miracle." There was a good response to the altar call.

MONDAY MORNING

Following the devotional service, the business meeting was opened with R. M. Riggs presiding. The minutes of the Saturday sessions were read by the General Secretary and by motion were adopted as read. It was moved and carried that the first order of business in this session be the election of officers and that other business be interspersed.

Bert Webb was requested to preside, and nominating ballots for the office of General Superintendent were cast after the chair had read from the Constitution portions pertaining to the officers, their election and duties. Prayer for divine guidance was offered.

Report of Roster Committee

Rev. Arthur Berg, Chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the report of registration up to 10:00 a.m. Monday, as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,252
Delegates	577
Visitors	2,218
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Total	5,047
Total Voting Constituency	2,829

It was noted that this provided an all-time high voting constituency.

T. F. Zimmerman reported the results of the balloting to determine the best time of the year for the General Councils, as follows:

Last week in August	612
First week in September	380
First week in October	272
Other dates	171

TOTAL 1,435

Thus it appeared that the sentiment strongly favored the last few days of August and the first few days of September.

It was moved and carried that the report be accepted and be the guide in scheduling the 1957 General Council meeting.

It was moved that a committee be appointed to receive the invitations for the site of the 1957 General Council and that this committee make a careful study and bring their recommendations to this General Council in session. The motion carried. The following committee was appointed: T. H. Spence, Chairman; George E. Gould, Lyle Curtis, C. W. Hahn, R. G. McAllister, F. C. Woodworth, M. B. Netzel.

It was moved that in the event a candidate for General Superintendent receives a two-thirds majority vote on the nominating ballot it shall be considered an election. The motion was carried.

It was further moved that all elections be conducted on the same basis with anyone receiving a two-thirds vote on the nominating ballot be considered as elected. This motion was also seconded and sustained.

A question was raised as to whether Part 5 of the Report of the Financial Appeals Committee had been voted on and passed in the Saturday afternoon meeting. The chair took the ruling of the house and it was a nearly unanimous opinion that the matter was correctly recorded as read in the minutes.

A motion was made and carried that the Local Church Workshops be cancelled and the afternoon sessions be called to order at 1:30.

It was then moved that because of the great amount of business to be conducted in less than two days, the Chairman recognize the alternating of debate in order to conserve time. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion to take Part 4 of the Report of the Committee on Financial Appeals from the table was sustained. It was further moved that in our consideration of Part 4, we simultaneously consider Parts 6 and 7. The motion carried.

The tellers read their report on the election of General Superintendent, and reported that none of the nominees received a two-thirds majority of the ballots cast. The nominees consisted of R. M. Riggs, G. F. Lewis, J. O. Savell, Bert Webb, T. F. Zimmerman, A. A. Wilson, D. H. McLaughlin, Charles W. H. Scott, J. R. Flower, C. M. Ward, B. O. Oslin, Bartlett Peterson, G. W. Hardcastle, W. A. Brown, E. S. Williams, Atwood Foster, Howard Bush, Edgar Bethany, V. Gardner, James Van Meter, W. A. Buck, M. B. Netzel, E. R. Wilkinson, Andrew Stirling, R. E. Goggin, F. D. Davis, U. S. Grant, O. B. Harrup, Wallace Bragg, Ernest Sumrall, Paul Copeland, H. B. Garlock.

The tellers reported that 1,674 of the 2,829 qualified voting delegates cast ballots. The first elective ballot was then cast. While the tellers were receiving the ballots, debate was resumed on the report of the Financial Appeals Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

The business meeting was resumed at 1:40 p.m. with Bert Webb presiding. The Chairman of the Tellers committee brought a report of the first elective ballot. A total of 1,861 votes were cast with 1,241 needed for election. R. M. Riggs

received 1,200 votes, but it was necessary to cast a second elective ballot.

Discussion of Parts 4, 6 and 7 of the Report of the Financial Appeals Committee continued for a time until a motion for the previous question was sustained. When put to a vote, the motion in favor of adopting Parts 4, 6 and 7 was lost.

It was moved and carried to adopt the report of the Financial Appeals Committee as amended.

A motion was passed that the council proceed with item VIII on the agenda, New Business.

J. R. Flower read the proposed change to Article IX, Section 3, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution and moved that it be adopted.

RESOLVED, That Article IX, Section 3, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution shall be changed to read: The foreign fields shall be represented in the General Presbytery by the Field Secretaries of the Foreign Missions Department and by two others from each of the over-all areas which the Field Secretaries represent.

An amendment was offered to delete the words, "and by two others from each of the over-all areas which the Field Secretaries represent," and substitute "one missionary on furlough from each one of our foreign fields fellowships by election by each of the foreign field fellowships." The amendment was lost.

D. H. McLaughlin questioned the constitutionality of acting on this amendment since the districts had not been informed in writing of the proposed amendment. When the chair requested an expression from the floor as to whether or not proper notice had been given to the districts, by means of the proposed constitutional change appearing in the quarterly letter of April 1955, it was felt that proper notification had not been given and therefore no action should be taken by this General Council.

Election of General Superintendent

The Tellers reported that a total of 1,655 votes were cast on the second elective ballot with 1,104 needed for election. R. M. Riggs received 1,184 and was therefore re-elected to the position of General Superintendent. Brother Riggs expressed sincere appreciation for the vote and assured the delegates that he would continue to serve the fellowship to the best of his ability.

Ballots were distributed for the nomination of four Assistant General Superintendents and were then collected. J. R. Flower presented the following Constitutional change:

RESOLVED, That Article IX, Section 5 "Branches," of the Bylaws become Article IX of the Constitution with the deletion of the phrase "of the constitution" on lines 5 and 6 in said section.

It was voted that no action be taken at this session, but that notice be given in writing to each of the District Councils for their action, prior to the 1957 General Council.

Committees

In giving consideration to Bylaw changes, it was moved, seconded and carried that Article IV, Committees, Section 1, Standing Committees, be amended to read:

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

A motion to add Section 4, Other Committees to Article IV of the Bylaws was sustained as follows:

Other General Council committees shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery in collaboration with the department heads.

Foreign Missions Committee Report

Extensive amendments to Article VIII, Foreign Missions Department, of the Bylaws were the outgrowth of the Foreign Missions Seminar held in Springfield, Missouri in June 1954. The Foreign Missions committee serving at this General Council proposed further amendments. Noel Perkin was called upon to present the amendments. Brother Perkin read and moved the adoption of Article VIII, Section 1, Authorization and Purpose, as amended:

ARTICLE VIII. FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and 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. In keeping with this

objective, there shall be a Foreign Missions Department to which shall be committed all the foreign missionary interests of the Fellowship.

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 national churches.

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

The motion was seconded and carried.

It was then moved and seconded that Section 2, Government and Organization, be adopted, as follows:

Section 2. Government and Organization.

a. The activities of the Foreign Missions Department shall be under the supervision of a Foreign Missions Board appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

This Board shall consist of the Executive Director of the department and six others, two of whom shall be Executive Presbyters, two Field Secretaries, and two others.

The responsibilities of this Board shall be the establishing of policy, the appointment of missionaries, and such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Executive Presbytery.

The general administrative work of the department shall be conducted by a Foreign Missions Committee consisting of the Foreign Missions Secretary, the Field Secretaries, and the heads of major divisions of the department. The responsibilities of this committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the department and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of the General Council and the Foreign Missions Board.

All the activities of the Foreign Missions Department and the decisions of the Foreign Missions Board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery to which the Foreign Missions Department shall be amenable.

b. Field Secretaries to represent major geographical areas shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas. These appointments shall be subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. The Foreign Missions Board shall appoint secretaries for major office divisions of departmental activities as need may arise.

An amendment was offered and passed to include "two pastors of missionary churches" rather than as now reads "two others" in Paragraph a, Sub-paragraph 2.

Some felt that the activities of the Foreign Missions Board should be subject to review by the General Presbytery as well as the Executive Presbytery and this was made in the form of a motion to amend Paragraph a, Sub-paragraph 5 of Section 2, to read:

All the activities of the Foreign Missions Department and the decisions of the Foreign Missions Board shall be subject to review by the General Presbytery as well as the Executive Presbytery. The Foreign Missions Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Leonard Palmer moved a substitute to the proposed amendment, Section 2, Paragraph b, which would require that Field Secretaries be nominated and elected by the field fellowships they are to supervise. The motion was lost.

Section 2, as amended, was passed when put to vote.

Section 3, Support of the Foreign Missions Department, was presented and adopted without debate.

Section 3. Support of Foreign Missions Department.

The expense of operating the Foreign Missions Department shall be provided from:

a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan offerings.

b. A recommended one-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment or receiving funds through the Foreign Missions Department.

c. Offerings designated for office expense. It is recommended that any who do not contribute under the World Missions Plan should designate a portion of their offering for office expense.

Section 4, Missionary Candidates, was presented, as follows:

Section 4. Missionary Candidates.

a. The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the Foreign Missions Board on recommendation of the Foreign Missions Committee.

b. The Foreign Missions Board 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) A definite experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

(3) As to definite call to foreign work.

(4) As to physical, mental and spiritual fitness for work.

(5) As to Christian standing and general qualifications, it being required that each applicant receiving appointment be endorsed by his district council.

(6) 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. 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. Candidates for foreign service of a specialized character such as nurses, teachers, et cetera, may be granted appointment for such types of work if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates must qualify according to normal requirements for Christian character, experience, and doctrine.

e. 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.

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

g. The Foreign 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 warrants such action.

h. 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.

Noel Perkin explained that several changes to the proposed amendments to the Bylaws, Section 4, were recommended by the Missions Committee of the General Council and were being presented as substitutes for the equivalent paragraphs.

Paragraph b (5) to read:

As to Christian standing and general qualifications, it being required that each applicant receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of his district council, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character.

Paragraph d, last sentence:

Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

It was moved, seconded and sustained to adopt Section 4, Missionary Candidates, paragraphs a through d.

The latter part of Section 4, from paragraphs e through h were presented and adopted with the following paragraph e being substituted for its equivalent in the proposed Amendments:

Funds provided for the prospective missionaries who shall for any reason be prevented from going to the field can be made available for other missionaries or missionary purposes after consultation with the districts from which the funds have been received.

A motion to adopt Section 4 in its entirety was sustained.

Since the business of the General Council was running far behind schedule, it was moved and carried that the 8:00 a.m. prayer service Tuesday be considered the devotional service and that the afternoon Workshops be dispensed with so that the business sessions on Tuesday would commence at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Sections 5, 7 and 8 were presented separately and adopted, without debate, as follows:

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 Foreign Missions Board. All funds assigned to particular persons shall be forwarded by the Foreign Missions Department exactly as directed.

b. It is requested that all missionaries send a monthly or quarterly 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 Foreign Missions Department and receive its approval before leaving this country. The Foreign Missions Department shall assume no responsibility whatever, where the foregoing requirements are not complied with.

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

Section 7. Fellowship Certificates.

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 Foreign Missions Department shall be contingent upon the missionary's filling out in ample time the annual questionnaire provided by the Department and sending same to the home office. This questionnaire shall provide for statement relative to the missionary's activity, the assemblies or works under his supervision, the number of believers attending each assembly, et cetera.

Section 8. Field Organization.

a. In all fields occupied by Assemblies of God missionaries, every effort shall be exerted to establish autonomous Assemblies of God organizations composed of co-operating, sovereign assemblies. It is realized that no fixed organizational pattern is possible. Every organization should take on a form fully consonant with local conditions, manner of life and thought patterns. Missionaries should studiously avoid the practice of proposing a foreign type of organization, but should encourage a type readily understood and easily operated by the nationals of the country. These organizations shall be encouraged to maintain the closest fraternal relationships with

Assemblies of God fellowships in other countries but shall not be considered organizationally an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America.

b. Missionary Field Fellowships, composed of all missionaries under appointment by the Foreign Missions Department, shall be formed in each political or geographic area as circumstances may indicate. These Field Fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Foreign Missions Department since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the Field Fellowship. The Missionary Field Fellowships shall serve in a consultative capacity to the Foreign Missions Department in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields. They shall strive to maintain harmonious relationships on the field and with the Foreign Missions Department but shall avoid encroaching on the sphere of activities of their respective National Assemblies of God organizations.

In those fields where there is insufficient personnel to make the organization of a Field Fellowship practical, the foreign Missions Department may appoint a representative to act for the field in matters normally handled by the Field Fellowship.

c. Missionary Field Fellowships shall be represented in the General Presbytery by their Field Secretary and two others from the over-all area which he represents, the two others to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on recommendation of the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 9, Property, was presented by Brother Perkin; as follows:

Section 9. Property.

a. All possible precautions shall be taken to safeguard funds invested in foreign properties so that they shall continue to advance the cause of the Assemblies of God in those countries. No funds shall be made available for the purchase of property until arrangements have been made to comply with the laws of the respective countries concerning the legal holding of title and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missionary projects and the Foreign Missions Department these principles shall be followed:

(1) All missionary residences shall be held in the name of the General Council wherever legally possible.

(2) It shall be a general policy to hold institutional proper-

ties in the name of the General Council. However, the Foreign Missions Department shall be authorized to transfer title to the local National Assemblies of God organization when it deems such action to be in the best interests of the work.

(3) All properties, either church buildings or pastor's residences, which are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds shall be held in the name of its National Assemblies of God organization except in those cases where the local church is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(4) In all cases where the Foreign Missions Department has advanced trust funds on a loan basis the General Council shall hold title to the property or receive other adequate security until the loan is fully paid.

b. Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings should co-operate with the Missionary Fellowship on the field, and secure its endorsement before submitting the 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.

The Foreign Missions Committee of the General Council proposed that Paragraph a (3) of the Proposed Amendments be substituted by the following:

Church buildings or pastors' residences which are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds may be held in the name of the national Assemblies of God organization or by a local church which is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

A motion to adopt Section 9, as amended, was sustained. Sections 10 and 11, were presented and adopted, both without debate, as follows:

Section 10. National Workers.

a. It is recommended that great care be exercised in the selection of national workers and in the setting up of the national organization so that credentials may be issued only to those maintaining the highest standards and manifesting a real consecration.

b. All foreign funds for the support of national workers shall be administered either by the Missionary Field Fellowship or the National Assemblies of God organization.

Section 11. Furloughs.

a. A furlough is designed primarily for the physical and spiritual benefit of the missionary through a change of climate, food, and living conditions and fresh association in spiritual meetings and conferences in the homeland. It is expected that each missionary will co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department in planning for his own financial interests and for the good of the work in general.

b. The length and frequency of furloughs shall be determined by the Foreign Missions Department in consultation with the Missionary Fellowships on the various fields. It shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to assume any financial obligation to a missionary who has returned home without having first obtained the approval of both the Field Fellowship and the Foreign Missions Department.

c. It shall be the responsibility of the Missionary Field Fellowship to recommend to the Foreign Missions Department whether or not a missionary returning on furlough shall be reappointed to another term of service. This decision shall be made before the missionary leaves the field and if the recommendation is negative the missionary shall be entitled to a personal hearing before the field committee. The final decision in regard to reappointment shall rest with the Foreign Missions Board.

d. When a missionary does not intend to return to the field or, for any reason, he is not recommended for further service, it shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to continue his allowance for more than six months unless his retirement from missionary service is because of ill health or the infirmities of age.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt Article VIII, Foreign Missions Department, as amended.

A motion from the floor to dispense with the regular evening service and continue business after the evening meal was lost. A motion was passed that the attention of the body, for the remainder of the afternoon session, be devoted to current resolutions and return to the proposed amendments on Tuesday morning.

World Missions Plan

E. A. Balliet, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, then brought to the floor Resolution No. 1 and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The 22nd General Council convening in Grand Rapids, Michigan adopted the present recommended plan for the division of World Missions offerings, and

WHEREAS, The 24th General Council convening in Atlanta, Georgia adopted the present recommended plan for the division of World Speed-the-Light offerings, and

WHEREAS, The General Council World Missions Plan and World Speed-the-Light Plan do not appear in the General Council Bylaws, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XXI of the Bylaws shall be as follows:

Section 1, World Missions Offerings

It is recommended that all World Missions offerings be divided as follows:

- 70% Foreign Missions
- 5% Foreign Missions Office Expense
- 5% National Home Missions
- 20% District Home Missions

Section 2, Speed-the-Light Offerings

It is recommended that all Speed-the-Light offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 70% Foreign Speed-the-Light
- 10% Office Expense
- 20% District Speed-the-Light

The portion returned to the district shall be designated for the purchase and erection of property in pioneer fields.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Secretary be instructed to place a parenthetical statement referring to this Article in the Foreign Missions Department Article, Home Missions Department Article, and Christ's Ambassadors Department Article.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Articles of the Bylaws following this Article XXI shall be renumbered accordingly.

Resolution on change in Election Procedure

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

WHEREAS, Much time is consumed in the election of our officers, and more time is needed at our General Councils for spiritual services and other phases of our work such as workshops, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Section 1 of Article IX of our Constitution be amended to read as follows:

The General Superintendent, four Assistant General Superintendents, General Secretary, General Treasurer and the Executive Presbyters shall be elected for a term of four years each. And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a committee of not less than six men be appointed by the chair to draft a plan for staggering the election of the General Council officers, which shall be first presented for the consideration of the General Presbyters, and then mailed to our constituency prior to the next session of the General Council. This plan shall be added to Section 1 of Article IX.

During the discussion an amendment was offered which would limit the term in office of any officer to eight years. This amendment was not given consideration, however, since it was out of order to consider a constitutional change at the meeting in which it was first offered.

Election of Assistant General Superintendents

At this point the tellers brought in a report showing that 1,751 ballots had been cast for the four Assistant General Superintendents with 1,168 needed for an election. Each of the four incumbents was re-elected on this nominating ballot, their respective votes being as follows:

Bert Webb	1,612
G. F. Lewis	1,488
T. F. Zimmerman	1,391
J. O. Savell	1,283

Each one of the Assistants spoke, thanking the delegates for the vote of confidence and pledging his faithfulness to the Fellowship for the next two years.

Ballots were then cast for the office of General Secretary and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with prayer by Robert Goggin.

TUESDAY MORNING

Inasmuch as the scheduled 9 o'clock devotional service was dispensed with, the business meeting opened at 9:15 a.m. with R. M. Riggs presiding.

Election of General Secretary

The report of the Tellers indicated that 998 ballots had been cast for General Secretary with 665 needed for election. J. Roswell Flower received 803 votes and was thus re-elected to office. He, too, expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence and said he would continue to serve the Fellowship to the best of his ability.

Election of General Treasurer and Foreign Missions Secretary

The chair reported that Wilfred A. Brown had been nominated by the General Presbytery for General Treasurer and Noel Perkin nominated for Foreign Missions Secretary. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be ratified by acclamation, but a substitute motion that we continue the elections by means of secret ballot carried. The report of the Tellers showed that 597 votes were cast for General Treasurer and Foreign Missions Secretary. The elections were nearly unanimous with W. A. Brown receiving 573 votes and Noel Perkin receiving 572.

Final Report of Roster Committee

The final report of the Roster Committee was brought in by Arthur Berg, chairman, as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,319
Delegates	587
	<hr/>
Voting constituency	2,906
Visitors	2,320
	<hr/>
Total registered	5,226

A motion was made and sustained to adopt this report and close the roster.

Report on Committee on Convention Cities

The chair requested the privilege of hearing the report of the committee appointed to consider a site for the 1957 General Council. Lyle Curtis, acting chairman in the absence of T. H. Spence, reported that fifteen cities extended invitations for the convention. He stated that it was the unanimous opinion of the committee, after thorough investigation of all

invitations, to recommend for consideration Philadelphia, Pa., Cleveland, Ohio and Des Moines, Iowa.

The report of the committee was accepted by motion.

Election of Non-Resident Executive Presbyters

The next officers to be elected were the non-resident Executive Presbyters. It was moved that for this General Council the same boundaries be used as were indicated in 1953 for the election of Executive Presbyters by geographical area. The motion carried.

Nominations were made from the floor, as follows:

NORTHWEST, D. H. McLaughlin, Wallace Bragg, N. D. Davidson, Boyd Wolverton, G. Raymond Carlson, Frank Lindquist

SOUTHWEST, W. T. Gaston, H. M. Cadwalder, B. Owen Oslin, A. A. Wilson, E. A. Balliet

NORTHEAST, Charles W. H. Scott, R. J. Bergstrom, A. Newton Chase, O. L. Harrup, Ernest Sumrall, Grady Fannin

SOUTHEAST, Howard S. Bush, Jimmie Mayo, Andrew Stirling, Jesse Smith, D. V. Williams

Ballots were cast and counted for each of the regional Presbyters. When the balloting was concluded, it was found that the following were elected:

D. H. McLaughlin for the Northwest region

A. A. Wilson for the Southwest region

Charles W. H. Scott for the Northeast region

Howard S. Bush for the Southeast region

Rev. R. O. Corvin of the Pentecostal Holiness church was introduced and spoke briefly. He was requested to take back to his church the sincere greetings of this convention.

Education Department

Rev. M. T. Wells moved that the next order of business be the amendment of Article X, Education Department, of the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and when put to a vote it was a tie and the chair decided in favor of considering the amendment of Article X.

A motion was sustained to consider the proposed amendments to Article X of the Bylaws seriatim. The adoption of Section 1, Authorization and Purpose, was moved and seconded.

ARTICLE X. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

There shall be an Education Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the supervision and promotion of the educational activities of the Assemblies of God. This responsibility shall include grade schools, high schools, junior colleges, senior colleges, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, graduate schools, correspondence schools, and general ministerial training.

It was then moved and carried that paragraph 2 of Section 1 as it appears in the present Bylaws be retained to follow the amended paragraph 1. This paragraph is as follows:

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.

As amended, Section 1 was adopted.

It was then moved and seconded to adopt Section 2, Government and Organization, as follows:

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.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Secretary of Education who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

c. 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 Committee on Education, which is the Executive Presbytery, shall govern and administer the affairs of the Education Department through an Education Commission which shall consist of eight members. The Executive Presbytery after consultation with the General Presbyters in each area shall appoint one member of the Education Commission from each of the following geographical areas of the United States: Northwest, Southwest, North central, South central, Northeast, Southeast.

d. The Education Commission shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. The Executive Director and

the Secretary of Education shall be ex officio members of the Education Commission and the Executive Director shall serve as its chairman. It shall conduct its own meetings as occasion may require. This Education Commission and the whole Education Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery in all matters.

After considerable discussion, paragraph c and d were amended, as follows:

c. The government and work of the education department and all its divisions shall be vested in, and committed to the Committee on Education, which shall consist of twenty members, to be constituted as follows: The Executive Director, Secretary of Education, and three members from each of the six geographical areas of the United States, viz., northwest, southwest, north central, south central, northeast and southeast, one or more of whom shall be a school administrator from our Assemblies of God schools in their respective areas. These members shall be elected by the General Presbyters of the respective areas at called meetings during the annual session of the General Presbytery.

d. The members of the Committee on Education will serve for terms of three years or until their successors are elected. These terms shall be arranged so that the term of only one member from each area will expire annually. The Executive Director shall serve as chairman of the committee. It shall conduct its own meetings as occasion may require. The leaders of the schools may be invited to the meetings of the Committee on Education with the privilege of the floor even though they may not have the privilege of voting. The Committee on Education and the entire Education Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery in all matters.

At this point Milton T. Wells of Eastern Bible Institute requested the privilege of speaking on the last paragraph of Section 4, Rights and Prerogatives, pertaining to a Theological Seminary. The chair granted this privilege inasmuch as Brother Wells' plane reservation to return home would not enable him to remain for the afternoon session.

A motion was then made to adopt Section 3, Duties and Functions, as follows:

Section 3. Duties and Functions.

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 educational and administrative efficiency in the various schools.

It shall also be charged with the responsibility of stimulating and encouraging interest in Christian Education and of promoting enrollment at the various Assemblies of God schools. It shall likewise effect a program for securing funds from Foundations and other sources and from the denomination as a whole on behalf of our educational program.

It shall be the duty of the Education Department to conduct a continuous study of the educational institutions and services of the Assemblies of God with the view to their increasing effectiveness. It shall seek to correlate all educational efforts into a unified program. To this end, it shall have the following specific rights and functions:

a. To approve the opening of new schools, academic and theological, and to take the initiative in the establishment of such schools;

b. To recommend the broadening and/or restricting the scope of individual school services;

c. To recommend the closing and/or the consolidation of existing schools;

d. To erect standards to which all schools of the Assemblies of God shall be required to conform in order to receive General Council endorsement. The standards may include the qualifications and minimum salary scales of the faculty and staff, the required subjects of the curriculum, the length of class periods, semesters and terms, the requirements for admission and for graduation, and the general regulations of school life.

e. To provide general services to all schools.

The Department of Education shall serve the various schools of the Assemblies of God as a faculty placement bureau. It may supply to school staffs and faculties ideas and suggestions for more efficient operation and may publish an inter-school periodical to this end. It may publish an educational directory. It may also promote and conduct faculty seminars.

The Education Committee recommended several changes and paragraphs, a, b, and c were amended as follows:

a. To offer guidance and counsel in the opening of new schools, academic and theological, and may take the initiative in the establishing of such schools;

b. To recommend broadening the scope of individual school services;

c. Deleted

Bartlett Peterson, President of Central Bible Institute, offered the thought that Bible schools should not be the only schools seeking to maintain a high level of spirituality and moved that in line 2 of the first paragraph of Section 3, Duties and Functions, the word "Bible" be deleted. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was sustained to delete the phrase "and minimum salary scales," line 4 of paragraph d.

The vote to adopt Section 3, as amended, carried.

The session was adjourned with Rev. J. R. Flower remembering several urgent requests in prayer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon session convened at 1:40 with R. M. Riggs presiding.

Report of Committee on Education

O. Cope Budge, in the absence of the chairman T. Kessel, read the entire report of the Education committee. A motion was carried to receive the report, as follows:

Education has always been a primary function of God's economy. The purpose of this function is the transmission of redemption truth and to bring about a continued personal religious experience. Moses underscored this idea, "And these words which I have commanded thee this day shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." (Deut. 6:6, 7)

The committee commends to the General Council in session the work of the Education Department and all the schools of the Assemblies of God. The Committee offers praise to God for His blessing on these institutions.

Great fields of advance for Christ by the Assemblies of God lie almost untouched in the kindergarten and grade school work. The local church can move forward to victories which will help us fulfill the call of Christ. Some of the prospects of this work are: Indoctrination of our own children and other children outside of our Fellowship; it creates an open door to new homes; and gives the church a new welcome and standing in the community.

For many local churches the opening of kindergarten and grade schools could be easy since the local church already has building facilities.

In view of the fact that schools can be organized so that student dues pay the teacher's salary, the church can operate a school without impossible expense.

Another great field of advance for Christ by the Assemblies of God lies in the area of High School work. In addition to the prospects just listed under "Kindergarten and Grade Schools" we call your attention to the fact that spiritual conversion and serious adolescent crises are characteristic of this group.

The aims of Christian education being what they are, namely, to help fix in the minds of students Bible truths, and to create a continued spiritual experience, it is very clear that this necessary task is not being accomplished by our public schools. Further, in addition to the lack of an adequate curriculum, and too often an environment opposed to an wholesome Christian personality growth, most of our public school districts are far overcrowded.

Therefore, we recommend that every local assembly consider carefully the advantages and opportunities of operating Christian kindergarten, grade schools, and high schools.

Further, it is felt by your committee that the time has come for standardization of schools and curricula in order to meet minimum state requirements. We recommend that the office of Secretary of Education of the General Council provide these standards and make them available. We desire that all our Christian day schools maintain high standards in policy and practice.

It has been observed from this committee's study that there are approximately 150 graduates of our own schools who are now in seminaries and universities doing graduate work. We call it to your attention that the time is nearing when we must consider a graduate School of Theology for the training of our youth.

In behalf of our hundreds of young people graduating from our Pentecostal schools, we recommend that a Placement Office and Service be established with the office of the Secretary of Education of the General Council to facilitate exchange of information on Directors of Religious Education, Music Majors, and Pastors' Assistants.

The Bible School program of the Assemblies of God has an

important role in implementing the objectives of this movement. It is necessary that these schools be encouraged to function at the highest possible level of productivity efficiency in the training of our young people for the Pentecostal ministry. Each school is vital to the future of our movement because of its unique contribution. Regardless of the origin of the individual schools, all have accomplished a noteworthy task in the development of the Assemblies of God program at home and abroad. In the past, limited funds available to the schools have forced them to rely on student income as the chief, and oftentimes only, means of support. This source was an inadequate though expedient beginning of most school programs. As a rule, faculties were understaffed and inadequately paid. Accommodations and facilities likewise need further development. Present standards and requirements of our Education Department have raised the cost of the Bible School program. Some of our schools have been forced to close or to seek additional sources of support, each school devising its own ways and means. Most schools are having difficulties in balancing the budget on operative cost and are struggling to raise plant funds.

Tomorrow, due to population increase and denominational growth, will find greater demands upon our Bible Schools both to secure larger student bodies and to supply better facilities. In all these respects we are in the first beginning, and in the meantime the field is calling aloud for results.

Inasmuch as our Bible Schools have served the entire constituency, and every District has benefited by the training program, we feel it is in keeping with equity and prudence that the Bible Schools be financially assisted on the national level and that the entire financial responsibility not be left to the District in which the school is resident. It is highly desirable and needful that a program of fund raising be instituted and promoted by the Education Department and that these funds be administered by the department for the support of our Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges.

Respectfully submitted,

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

T. E. Gannon, Home Missions Committee chairman, requested a change in the order of business so as to read the report of the Home Missions Committee. The report as read was adopted, as follows:

World Evangelism is the number one challenge of the Assemblies of God. To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth is the primary reason for our existence as a movement. While we rejoice in the many evidences of God's blessing upon us, let us not lose sight of the fact that there is yet an unfinished task and time is running out. Therefore, every decision and every endeavor must be made in the light of this supreme task.

It is your committee's conviction that in order to accomplish this more effectively, greater emphasis must be given to Church Extension on the home front. This does not mean that we are to de-emphasize any area of service in the World Evangelism field, but that rather Home Missions be given a greater percentage of emphasis than heretofore. The underlying reason for this conviction lies in the recognition that most of the appeals for the prosecution of our work are directed to the local churches. In order therefore for the Assemblies of God to support the expanding economy of our work we must of necessity materially strengthen the home front.

Your Committee would call your attention to the fact that while some provision has been made for means to promote Special Ministries and Church Extension there has been no provision made for the maintaining of our National Home Missions Office. While your committee does not feel that it is in position to make recommendations toward meeting this great need we do believe that it should receive serious consideration.

We note that there are still over 2,500 towns and cities in the United States with a population of over 1,000 without an Assembly of God church. There are some 400,000 Indians on reservations to evangelize. We have five million of the Jewish race to witness to. The 700,000 deaf and partially deaf present a tremendous challenge. There are some two million men and women behind the prison bars that need the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The more than ten million foreign-born and foreign-speaking people within these United States

must be reached, and our responsibility to the Alaskan Missions and other fields must not be overlooked.

Great strides have recently been made by our Home Missions Department and it is to be highly commended for this progress. The work of this department together with the work done in the Home Missions Seminar and the Home Missions Commission has introduced to us a great Home Missions crusade known as "Missions U.S.A." This program which was launched less than one year ago has made a definite contribution to the progress of our work.

1. Your committee does recommend that this General Council in session go on record as endorsing this great crusade "Mission U.S.A." and we strongly urge every district, church and minister to combine every available means and to employ every phase of the Church Extension program in order that we might spread our Pentecostal work.
2. Furthermore, we recommend that a new effort be launched to educate our constituency to the adopted World Missions plan for the division of missionary offerings and strongly urge our districts and churches to make proper division of missionary offerings in order that the World Missions plan can be unitedly promoted.

Respectfully submitted,
HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Further Report Education Committee

Brother Riggs called for a special meeting of the General Presbytery in the evening to elect area representatives of the committee on education. It was moved that the election of the men called for in previous action be postponed until the next General Presbytery meeting, since many of the Presbyters had left and others would be leaving at the close of the afternoon session. It was further moved that the Committee on Education function as it has been until the committee members are elected at the 1956 General Presbytery meeting. This motion was sustained.

Assistant Superintendent, T. F. Zimmerman was then requested to take the chair as consideration was given to the proposed amendments to Article X, Section 4, Rights and Prerogatives.

Section 4. Rights and prerogatives.

The Department of Education shall issue annual certificates of endorsement to schools meeting its standards for endorsement, and no school operated by or patronized by members of the General Council shall be recognized as approved by the General Council unless or until it conforms to the standards erected by the Education Department and has been officially approved by such department.

It shall be the prerogative of the Department of Education to disburse and apportion whatever funds shall come into its possession to the various educational institutions of the Assemblies of God in that way which it shall consider equitable and right.

In the discharge of its duties and functions and the exercise of its rights and prerogatives, the Education Department shall consider all endorsed Assemblies of God schools as upon an equal basis, regardless of origin, ownership, or control. All schools which are approved and endorsed by the Department of Education shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in General Council publications and in the promotional work of the Education Department.

It shall also be the prerogative of the Education Department to seek to provide our own textbooks for our Bible schools.

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.

As progress and growth demand, the Education Department may provide a theological seminary and graduate work for those who seek special training for the ministry in the United States or foreign lands.

It was moved and seconded to adopt section 4. The only debate centered around the last paragraph which dealt with the question of providing a Theological Seminary. It was finally felt that any future decision relative to a seminary should be in the hands of the General Council rather than the Education Department. By motion the last paragraph was amended as follows:

As progress and growth demand, the General Council in session may provide a theological seminary with graduate

work for those who seek special training for the ministry in the United States or foreign lands. The motion to adopt Section 4, as amended, carried.

Section 5, Central Bible Institute, was presented and adopted, as amended, in this form:

The Executive Presbytery 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.

It was then moved, and the motion sustained, to adopt as a whole, Article X, Education Department, as amended.

It was suggested that the General Presbyters be notified by mail of their responsibility to elect eighteen area members of the Committee on Education before the 1956 General Presbytery meeting.

E. A. Balliet, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, re-read Resolution No. 2 as presented Monday afternoon which pertained to the terms of office of Executive Officers. It was moved and seconded to bring this matter to the attention of the General Council in 1957 but the motion was lost.

Report of Evangelism Committee

Stephen Vandermerwe, serving as chairman of the Evangelism Committee, read the Committee's Report and moved its adoption as follows:

At the Evangelism Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, in December 1954, the following Code of Ethics was adopted:

1. We recognize that as God's people we are distinctive and should therefore be governed by the principles of modesty and moderation in both conduct and dress. We recommend that our ministers and their companions be careful to conduct themselves so as to give no offense to those among whom they labor.
2. In the matter of doctrine and conduct, we recommend emphasizing the positive aspects of our Pentecostal message. If there is a controversial matter involved, it should be previously discussed between pastor and evangelist, with a view to maintaining the unity of the Spirit.
3. Regarding finances, there should be a mutual understanding between pastor and evangelist. It is no more carnal

for the evangelist to have a financial understanding with the pastor than for the pastor to have an understanding with his church.

4. When evangelists have been engaged for special meetings, they should be considered as honored guests and accorded entertainment in keeping with the ability of the host church or churches.
5. Ministers should be ethical at all times in the matter of cancelling meetings. A sixty-day notice should be given by either pastor or evangelist of a cancellation, except in case of emergency. (A suggestion was made that if a meeting is cancelled by the pastor or the evangelist, a good reason should be stated for the cancellation.)
6. In the matter of moral ethics, honesty and integrity should be the basic principles of conduct.
7. Ministers should always manifest clean Christian ethics and brotherly love in their comments or criticisms of one another.

Your committee further reports:

1. WHEREAS, Article 9, Section 3, Paragraph 1 (Page 44) of the Constitution states, "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," and WHEREAS, this movement was born in the fires of Evangelism, and WHEREAS, this General Council, for a number of years, has expressed its desire to see the ministry of Evangelism increased and encouraged,

THEREFORE YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

- That the General Presbytery be enlarged by the addition of three men to be chosen from among active full-time evangelists, nominated and elected by the General Council.
2. Your committee recommends that proper and adequate publicity be given to evangelists through the "Evangel" or other publications and that district publications give special recognition to deserving but little known evangelists who may be developing a profitable ministry in their particular districts.

3. It is recommended that Assemblies of God evangelists or ministers contemplating ministry overseas, or visiting ministers and evangelists from other countries touring America, clear their activities through the division Overseas Evangelism of the Foreign Missions Department.
4. WHEREAS, the travel expenses of an evangelist are a part of the overall expenses of an evangelistic campaign, BE IT RECOMMENDED that when an evangelist is invited to conduct such a meeting the church provide for such expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

GENERAL COUNCIL EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

It was moved and carried that the first section which comprised the seven points of the Code of Ethics be adopted.

The four recommendations included in the report were considered separately. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the first recommendation of the committee included in the second portion of the report, as follows:

That the General Presbytery be enlarged by the addition of three men to be chosen from among active full-time evangelists, nominated and elected by the General Council.

Inasmuch as an adoption of the above recommendation would involve a change in the Constitution of the General Council because of the provision therein for the membership of the General Presbytery, it was not possible for this General Council to take any official action on the recommendation.

John Bostrom suggested that the chair instruct the General Secretary to include this as a proposed Constitutional change to be sent to the District Councils for their action in order to be considered at the next General Council. He further recommended and moved that the Executive Presbytery, during this session or as soon after as convenient, appoint three men from among the active evangelists to sit in the General Presbytery meetings until such constitutional change is made. It was not possible to make such appointments, for the General Presbytery ruled, in the 1955 meeting, to exclude all but General Presbyters.

The motion sustained to accept Recommendation No. 1 as part of the report.

Recommendation No. 2 was adopted by motion. A motion was

made and seconded to adopt Recommendation No. 3. G. F. Lewis moved that the first five words of the last line be deleted: "the division of Overseas Evangelism of." The motion was sustained and Recommendation No. 3 adopted. Recommendation No. 4, concerning expenses of an evangelist, when put to a vote, was lost.

The motion was made and carried that the report of the Evangelism Committee be adopted as a whole as amended.

Department of Evangelism Bylaw

Bert Webb moved the adoption of the Bylaw, Article XIX, Department of Evangelism, as follows:

ARTICLE XIX. DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

There shall be a Department of Evangelism of the General Council. The purpose of the department shall be:

- a. To encourage, emphasize, co-ordinate, and promote evangelism in all its phases.
- b. To assist evangelists in problems that are peculiar to their ministry on a general basis.

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.

b. There shall be a Secretary of the Department of Evangelism appointed by the Executive Presbytery who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

c. The Evangelism Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Secretary, and four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

d. The Evangelism Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

A motion was made by Leonard Palmer to amend subsection "c" of Section 2 by the addition of "subject to the approval of the General Presbytery," following the words, "Executive Presbytery." The motion was seconded and carried.

The motion to adopt Article XIX, Department of Evangelism, as an addition to the Bylaws, was sustained as amended.

Bert Webb moved that the phrase, "subject to the approval of the General Presbytery," be added to other Bylaws which would normally be affected by such action. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Report of the Radio Committee

The report of the Radio Committee was presented by Howard S. Bush, who moved its adoption. The report was adopted, as follows:

Your Radio Committee wishes to commend Brother Morse Ward and the Radio Department for the splendid promotional books and material that are being distributed by the Radio Department.

We would recommend that the "Pentecostal Evangel" carry publicity from the Radio Department on a regular basis, and that more space be given to Radio publicity. It is suggested that at least every two months a full page spread be given to the promotion of Revivaltime.

Your committee would like to recommend that steps be taken towards the establishing of a permanent choir for Revivaltime. That this choir be recruited from Central Bible Institute, Evangel College, The Gospel Publishing House, and from other sources that might be available.

Your committee recommends that the Radio Department give serious thought and consideration to the field of television. That to arrive at an acceptable format, a pilot program be produced in certain strategic areas as a tryout in this very important field.

It is suggested that Revivaltime be originated from various sections of the field as often as possible, as it has been demonstrated that this is an excellent means of promoting interest in Revivaltime. We would further suggest that thought and consideration be given to integrating into the program quartettes, etc., as it seems advisable.

Respectfully submitted,
RADIO COMMITTEE

Resolutions of Appreciation

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

RESOLVED, That we extend a vote of appreciation to Brother Robert E. Goggin, Superintendent of the Oklahoma District Council, the other officers and ministers of the Oklahoma District, and particularly the local pastors, congregations and committees, for their cordial hospitality extended to the 26th session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God; and in addition to the WMC Department for its valuable assistance rendered at the Council.

RESOLVED, That this General Council hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation for the kind and generous hospitality extended by the Honorable Allen Street, Mayor of the City of Oklahoma City, the local Chamber of Commerce, and especially those who served at the registration and housing booths, the Oklahoma City Police Department, the Manager of the Municipal Auditorium and his help; the local newspapers and radio and TV stations for the generous publicity given to the convention; and Governor Raymond Gary and Senator Robert S. Kerr for their participation.

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

Report of Ministers' Benefit Association Committee

Assistant Superintendent, G. F. Lewis, read the report of the Ministers' Benefit Association Committee and moved the adoption of the Bylaw amendments, which motion was seconded and carried, as follows:

The Minister's Benefit Association was originally set up strictly as a retirement plan to provide a monthly retirement income for Assemblies of God ministers. Since that time the benefits of the Federal Social Security Program have been made available to ministers and this committee strongly recommends that all of our ministers avail themselves of these benefits. We believe, however, that the Minister's Benefit Association should be continued as a plan whereby our churches may share in contributing to a fund which will supplement

the Social Security benefits and give to the ministers who have served them added security in their old age. In view of these considerations we recommend that the Minister's Benefit Association plan be modified in the following essential points:

1. The required contribution of the minister should be reduced so that he may be able to carry these contributions in addition to paying Social Security taxes.
2. The savings feature of the plan should be strengthened to provide:
 - a. That the entire amount contributed by the member and his church together with all accumulated interest shall be paid to his beneficiary or his heirs in case of his death before he reaches retirement age;
 - b. That the member may receive full benefit of his church's contributions at age 65 even though he may for any reason leave the Assemblies of God fellowship or finds it necessary to withdraw his own contributions at any time;
 - c. To give the member a choice of either an annuity contract or a cash settlement when he reaches age 65.

We therefore recommend that Article XX of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

1. **Section 1. Organization** shall be amended by adding the following clause at the end of the first sentence—"or a cash settlement as provided hereafter."
2. **Section 4, Paragraph A** shall be amended by striking out the term 3% and substituting the phrase "not less than 1%."

Paragraph B shall be amended by inserting the words "at least" before the term 3% and inserting the words "or more" after the term 6% so that the paragraph shall read: "That each participating church pay an amount equivalent to at least 3% of its pastor's salary, with the recommendation that the church pay an amount equal to 6% or more of its pastor's salary, if possible, which amount shall be applied to the minister's credit."

Paragraph D shall be amended by deleting Sentences 4 and 5 so that the paragraph shall end with the sentence, "Such funds shall be allowed to accumulate interest until his death or retirement." (NOTE: The subject matter of sentences 4 and 5 will be dealt with in an added section.)

Paragraph E shall be amended by striking out the term 3% and inserting the phrase "not less than 1%."

Paragraph G shall be deleted.

3. The following section to be designated "Section 5. Benefits" shall be added:

- a. Any member leaving the fellowship of the Assemblies of God or for any reason desiring to withdraw his funds shall be entitled to withdraw the full amount of his personal contribution plus accumulated interest, subject to ninety days prior notice. The amount deposited by his church plus accumulated interest shall remain on deposit until his death or until he reaches age 65.
- b. In case a member shall die before he is 65 years of age, all funds on deposit in his account from whatever source shall be paid to his designated beneficiary or to his estate.
- c. Upon reaching age 65 the member may elect one of the following provisions:
 - (1) He may withdraw all funds credited to his account from whatever source.
 - (2) He may purchase an annuity contract arranged by the association through an established insurance company at the most favorable rate obtainable which will give to the member himself or to the member and his beneficiary a guaranteed income for life.

The 26th General Council was adjourned at 5:30 with prayer by Charles W. H. Scott, Executive Presbyter.

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

September 1-6, 1955

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; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:2.

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

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

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.

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

4. The Salvation of Man.

a. Conditions to Salvation.

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

b. The Evidences of Salvation.

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

5. Baptism in Water.

The ordinance of Baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed, as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Saviour and Lord. In so doing, they have the body washed in pure water as an outward symbol of cleansing, while their 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 officer for help. It may appeal from a decision by the District officer 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 IX, 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, licenses 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, or 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 Presbyter 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 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 appointed as necessity may

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

Section 2. Credentials Committee.

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.

Section 4. Other Committees.

Other General Council Committees shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery in collaboration with the department heads.

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 or engaging in other full-time ministry. They shall preach at least twenty times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity.

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. They shall preach at least twelve times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity.

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

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

Section 4. Ordinations.

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

b. The Scriptures plainly teach that while there is a difference between the ministry of men and of women in the church, divinely called and qualified women may also

serve the church in the ministry of the Word. Women who may have demonstrated a distinct ministry of evangelism and who have met the requirements of District Councils may be licensed to preach the Word. Matured women of not less than twenty-three years of age who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally and who have proved their qualifications in actual service and who have met all the requirements of the Credentials Committees of the District Councils may be ordained to the ministry of the Gospel and may serve either as evangelists or as pastors as their qualifications warrant. The right to administer the ordinances of the church, when such acts are necessary, shall be included in the ordination.

Section 5. Exceptions.

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

b. Since divorced and remarried persons in the ministry usually cause stumbling, reproach and division, whatever may have been the cause of divorce, we disapprove of District Councils granting credentials to 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 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 or to those who are in other full-time ministry. 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 Officer 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 Officer 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 officer of the District with which he is affiliated. In the event that the agreement shall be violated outside of his District the officer 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 officer of the District Council and the Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall be recognized as having the right of initiative in the trial of members.

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENTS

ARTICLE VIII. FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and 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. In keeping with this objective, there shall be a Foreign Missions Department to which shall be committed all the foreign missionary interests of the Fellowship.

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 national churches.

c. In fields where Pentecostal missionaries are already

stationed, consultation shall be had with the brethren on the field and the Foreign 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. Government and Organization.

a. The activities of the Foreign Missions Department shall be under the supervision of a Foreign Missions Board appointed by the Executive Presbytery subject to the approval of the General Presbytery.

This Board shall consist of the Executive Director of the department and six others, two of whom shall be Executive Presbyters, two Field Secretaries, and two pastors of missionary churches.

The responsibilities of this Board shall be the establishing of policy, the appointment of missionaries, and such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Executive Presbytery.

The general administrative work of the department shall be conducted by a Foreign Missions Committee consisting of the Foreign Missions Secretary, the Field Secretaries, and the heads of major divisions of the department. The responsibilities of this committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the department and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of the General Council and the Foreign Missions Board.

All the activities of the Foreign Missions Department and the decisions of the Foreign Missions Board shall be subject to review by the General Presbytery as well as the Executive Presbytery. The Foreign Missions Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

b. Field Secretaries to represent major geographical areas shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas. These appointments shall be subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. The Foreign Missions Board shall appoint secretaries for major office divisions of departmental activities as need may arise.

Section 3. Support of Foreign Missions Department.

The expense of operating the Foreign Missions Department shall be provided from:

a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan offerings.

b. A recommended one-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment or receiving funds through the Foreign Missions Department.

c. Offerings designated for office expense. It is recommended that any who do not contribute under the World Missions Plan should designate a portion of their offering for office expense.

(See Article XXI. World Missions Plan)

Section 4. Missionary Candidates.

a. The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the Foreign Missions Board on recommendation of the Foreign Missions Committee.

b. The Foreign Missions Board 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) A definite experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

(3) As to definite call to foreign work.

(4) As to physical, mental and spiritual fitness for work.

(5) As to Christian standing and general qualifications, it being required that each applicant receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of his district council, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character.

(6) 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. 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. Candidates for foreign service of a specialized character such as nurses, teachers, et cetera, may be granted appointment for such types of work if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

e. Funds provided for the prospective missionaries who shall for any reason be prevented from going to the field can be made available for other missionaries or missionary purposes after consultation with the districts from which the funds have been received.

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

g. The Foreign 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.

h. 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 Foreign Missions Board. All funds assigned to particular persons shall be forwarded by the Foreign Missions Department exactly as directed.

b. It is requested that all missionaries send a monthly or quarterly 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 Foreign Missions Department and receive its approval before leaving

this country. The Foreign Missions Department shall assume no responsibility whatever, where the foregoing requirements are not complied with.

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

(See Article XXI. World Missions Plan)

Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries.

The ordination of missionaries under appointment of the Foreign 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.

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 Foreign Missions Department shall be contingent upon the missionary's filling out in ample time the annual questionnaire provided by the Department and sending same to the home office. This questionnaire shall provide for statement relative to the missionary's activity, the assemblies or works under his supervision, the number of believers attending each assembly, et cetera.

Section 8. Field Organization.

a. In all fields occupied by Assemblies of God missionaries, every effort shall be exerted to establish autonomous Assemblies of God organizations composed of co-operating, sovereign assemblies. It is realized that no fixed organizational pattern is possible. Every organization should take on a form fully consonant with local conditions, manner of life and thought patterns. Missionaries should studiously avoid the practice of proposing a foreign type of organization, but should encourage a type readily understood and easily operated by the nationals of the country. These organizations shall be encouraged to maintain the closest fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God fellowships in other countries but shall not be considered organizationally an integral part of the

General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America.

b. Missionary Field Fellowships, composed of all missionaries under appointment by the Foreign Missions Department, shall be formed in each political or geographic area as circumstances may indicate. These Field Fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Foreign Missions Department since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the Field Fellowship. The Missionary Field Fellowships shall serve in a consultative capacity to the Foreign Missions Department in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields. They shall strive to maintain harmonious relationships on the field and with the Foreign Missions Department but shall avoid encroaching on the sphere of activities of their respective National Assemblies of God organizations.

In those fields where there is insufficient personnel to make the organization of a Field Fellowship practical, the Foreign Missions Department may appoint a representative to act for the field in matters normally handled by the Field Fellowship.

c. Missionary Field Fellowships shall be represented in the General Presbytery by their Field Secretary and two others from the over-all area which he represents, the two others to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on recommendation of the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 9. Property.

a. All possible precautions shall be taken to safeguard funds invested in foreign properties so that they shall continue to advance the cause of the Assemblies of God in those countries. No funds shall be made available for the purchase of property until arrangements have been made to comply with the laws of the respective countries concerning the legal holding of title and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missionary projects and the Foreign Missions Department, these principles shall be followed:

(1) All missionary residences shall be held in the name of the General Council wherever legally possible.

(2) It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of the General Council. However, the Foreign Missions Department shall be authorized to transfer title to

the local National Assemblies of God organization when it deems such action to be in the best interests of the work.

(3) Church buildings or pastors' residences which are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds may be held in the name of its national Assemblies of God organization or by a local church which is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(4) In all cases where the Foreign Missions Department has advanced trust funds on a loan basis the General Council shall hold title to the property or receive other adequate security until the loan is fully paid.

b. Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings should co-operate with the Missionary Fellowship on the field, and secure its endorsement before submitting the 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. National Workers.

a. It is recommended that great care be exercised in the selection of national workers and in the setting up of the national organization so that credentials may be issued only to those maintaining the highest standards and manifesting a real consecration.

b. All foreign funds for the support of national workers shall be administered either by the Missionary Field Fellowship or the National Assemblies of God organization.

Section 11. Furloughs.

a. A furlough is designed primarily for the physical and spiritual benefit of the missionary through a change of climate, food, and living conditions and fresh association in spiritual meetings and conferences in the homeland. It is expected that each missionary will co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department in planning for his own financial interests and for the good of the work in general.

b. The length and frequency of furloughs shall be de-

terminated by the Foreign Missions Department in consultation with the Missionary Fellowships on the various fields. It shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to assume any financial obligation to a missionary who has returned home without having first obtained the approval of both the Field Fellowship and the Foreign Missions Department.

c. It shall be the responsibility of the Missionary Field Fellowship to recommend to the Foreign Missions Department whether or not a missionary returning on furlough shall be reappointed to another term of service. This decision shall be made before the missionary leaves the field and if the recommendation is negative the missionary shall be entitled to a personal hearing before the field committee. The final decision in regard to reappointment shall rest with the Foreign Missions Board.

d. When a missionary does not intend to return to the field or, for any reason, he is not recommended for further service, it shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to continue his allowance for more than six months unless his retirement from missionary service is because of ill health or the infirmities of age.

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, subject to the approval of 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.

(See Article XXI. World Missions Plan)

Section 3. The Church Extension Division.

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

Section 4. The Home Missions Division.

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

Section 5. Branches.

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

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

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

ARTICLE X. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

There shall be an Education Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the supervision and promotion of the education activities of the Assemblies of God. This responsibility shall include grade schools, high schools, junior colleges, senior colleges, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, graduate schools, 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.

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.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Secretary of Education who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

c. The government and work of the Education Department and all its divisions shall be vested in, and committed to the Committee on Education, which shall consist of twenty members to be constituted as follows: The Executive Director, Secretary of Education, and three members from each of the six geographical areas of the United States, viz., northwest, southwest, north central, south central, northeast and southeast, one or more of whom shall be a school administrator from our Assemblies of God schools in their respective areas. These area members shall be elected by the General Presbyters of the respective areas at called meetings during the annual session of the General Presbytery.

d. The members of the Committee on Education will serve for terms of three years or until their successors are elected. These terms shall be arranged so that the term of only one

member from each area will expire annually. The Executive Director shall serve as chairman of the Committee. It shall conduct its own meetings as occasion may require. The leaders of the schools may be invited to the meetings of the Committee on Education with the privilege of the floor even though they may not have the privilege of voting. The Committee on Education and the entire Education Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery in all matters.

Section 3. Duties and Functions.

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

It shall also be charged with the responsibility of stimulating and encouraging interest in Christian Education and of promoting enrollment at the various Assemblies of God schools. It shall likewise effect a program for securing funds from Foundations and other sources and from the denomination as a whole on behalf of our educational program.

It shall be the duty of the Education Department to conduct a continuous study of the educational institutions and services of the Assemblies of God with the view to their increasing effectiveness. It shall seek to correlate all educational efforts into a unified program. To this end, it shall have the following specific rights and functions:

a. To offer guidance and counsel in the opening of new schools, academic and theological, and may take the initiative in the establishing of such schools;

b. To recommend the broadening of the scope of individual school services;

c. To erect standards to which all schools of the Assemblies of God shall be required to conform in order to receive General Council endorsement. These standards may include the qualifications of the faculty and staff, the required subjects of the curriculum, the length of class periods, semesters and terms, the requirements for admission and for graduation, and the general regulations of school life.

d. To provide general services to all schools.

The Department of Education shall serve the various schools of the Assemblies of God as a faculty placement bureau. It may supply to school staffs and faculties ideas and suggestions for more efficient operation and may publish an inter-school periodical to this end. It may publish an educational directory. It may also promote and conduct faculty seminars.

Section 4. Rights and prerogatives.

The Department of Education shall issue annual certificates of endorsement to schools meeting its standards for endorsement, and no school operated by or patronized by members of the General Council shall be recognized as approved by the General Council unless or until it conforms to the standards erected by the Education Department and has been officially approved by such department.

It shall be the prerogative of the Department of Education to disburse and apportion whatever funds shall come into its possession to the various educational institutions of the Assemblies of God in that way which it shall consider equitable and right.

In the discharge of its duties and functions and the exercise of its rights and prerogatives, the Education Department shall consider all endorsed Assemblies of God schools as upon an equal basis, regardless of origin, ownership, or control. All schools which are approved and endorsed by the Department of Education shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in General Council publications and in the promotional work of the Education Department.

It shall also be the prerogative of the Education Department to seek to provide our own textbooks for our Bible schools.

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.

As progress and growth demand, the General Council in session may provide a theological seminary with graduate work for those who seek special training for the ministry in the United States or foreign lands.

Section 5. Central Bible Institute.

The Executive Presbytery 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.

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 nonacademic nature throughout the fellowship. The General Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery 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 subject to the approval of the General Presbytery 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 publications, 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.

(Speed-the-Light offerings, see:

Article XXI. World Missions Plan)

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, subject to the approval of the General 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. Ordained ministers should, therefore, recognize their obligation to contribute from their tithes or as an offering, or through their influence, the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) per month. Licensed ministers should contribute the sum of one dollar and a half (\$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. Each district shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and in the light of their knowledge of local situations, determine if the minister

has been voluntarily co-operating with the General Council financial program.

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

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 Council 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, subject to the approval of the General 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 Presbytery 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 subject to the approval of the General 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.

ARTICLE XIX. DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

There shall be a Department of Evangelism of the General Council. The Purpose of the department shall be:

a. To encourage, emphasize, co-ordinate, and promote evangelism in all its phases.

b. To assist evangelists in problems that are peculiar to their ministry on a general basis.

Section 2. Government and Organization.

a. The General Superintendent in consultation with 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. There shall be a Secretary of the Department of Evangelism appointed by the Executive Presbytery who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

c. The Evangelism Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Secretary, and four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery subject to the approval of the General Presbytery.

d. The Evangelism Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

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 or a cash settlement as provided hereafter. 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 not less than 1% of his salary which will be applied to his credit.
- b. That each participating church pay an amount equivalent to at least 3% of its pastor's salary, with the recommendation that the church pay an amount equal to 6% or more 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.
- e. That evangelists and pastors whose churches do not participate may contribute not less than 1% 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.

Section 5. Benefits.

a. Any members leaving the fellowship of the Assemblies of God or for any reason desiring to withdraw his funds shall be entitled to withdraw the full amount of his personal contribution plus accumulated interest, subject to ninety days prior notice. The amount deposited by his church plus accumulated interest shall remain on deposit until his death or until he reaches age 65.

b. In case a member shall die before he is 65 years of age, all funds on deposit in his account from whatever source shall be paid to his designated beneficiary or to his estate.

c. Upon reaching age 65 the member may elect one of the following provisions:

- (1) He may withdraw all funds credited to his account from whatever source.
- (2) He may purchase an annuity contract arranged by the association through an established insurance company at the most favorable rate obtainable which will give to the member himself or to the member and his beneficiary a guaranteed income for life.

ARTICLE XXI. WORLD MISSIONS PLAN.

Section 1. World Missions Offerings.

It is recommended that all World Missions offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 70% Foreign Missions
- 5% Foreign Missions Office Expense
- 5% National Home Missions
- 20% District Home Missions

Section 2. Speed-the-Light Offerings

It is recommended that all Speed-the-Light offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 70% Foreign Speed-the-Light
- 10% Office Expense
- 20% District Speed-the-Light

The portion returned to the district shall be designated for the purchase and erection of property in pioneer fields.

ARTICLE XXII. 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 XXIII. 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 XXIV. 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 belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the church, and

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

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

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

Section 8. Improper Use of Tithes.

a. According to 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 XXV. 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 XXVI. 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 XXVII. 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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