

# MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws  
General Council of the Assemblies of God

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL COUNCIL  
Cleveland, Ohio, August 28-September 3, 1957.

0481-035

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**Twenty - Seventh**  
**GENERAL COUNCIL**  
of the  
**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

Convened at Cleveland, Ohio  
August 28-September 3,  
1957

Printed in the U.S.A.

**FOREWORD**

The opening meeting of the twenty-seventh General Council was convened in the Municipal Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday night, August 28th. An address of welcome was given by Mayor A. I. Celebreeze and the response was delivered by Rev. Thomas F. Zimmerman, Assistant General Superintendent. A challenging message entitled "The Church of the Holy Ghost" was delivered by the General Superintendent, Rev. Ralph M. Riggs.

Public Prayer Meetings were held each morning in the Old Stone Church on the City Square, conducted by Rev. A. A. Wilson, Executive Presbyter and pastor of Evangel Temple, Kansas City, Mo. The business meetings were opened with devotional periods, including songs, prayer and the ministry of the Word. The night services were in the nature of rallies with a strong emphasis on evangelism. The Sunday afternoon meeting was devoted to World Missions.

A full report of all ministries including names of speakers was published in current issues of THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL. For the sake of brevity they have been eliminated from the printed minutes.

**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, following election and assignment of portfolios.**

- Ralph M. Riggs ..... General Superintendent  
Gayle F. Lewis ..... Assistant General Superintendent  
Executive Director Home Missions, Women's Missionary  
Council, Chairman Ministers' Benefit Association  
Charles W. H. Scott .... Assistant General Superintendent  
Executive Director Education, Men's Fellowship, Benevo-  
lence  
Bert Webb ..... Assistant General Superintendent  
Executive Director Sunday School, Evangelism, Christ's  
Ambassadors  
Thomas F. Zimmerman .... Assistant General Superintendent  
Executive Director Publications, Radio, Inter-department-  
al areas  
J. Roswell Flower ..... General Secretary  
Executive Director Church School Literature, Pentecostal  
Evangel  
Martin B. Netzel ..... General Treasurer  
Noel Perkin.....Foreign Missions Executive Di-  
rector and Secretary

**Executive Presbytery**

Ralph M. Riggs, Gayle F. Lewis, Charles W. H. Scott, Bert  
Webb, Thomas F. Zimmerman, J. Roswell Flower,  
Martin B. Netzel, Noel Perkin, Howard S. Bush,  
D. H. McLaughlin, Roy H. Wead, A. A. Wilson

**THE TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT CLEVELAND,  
OHIO**

**August 28 to September 3, 1957**

The business meetings of the twenty-seventh General Council were opened in the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium, Thursday, August 29 at 9:00 a.m. Following a brief devotional period, the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Rev. Ralph M. Riggs, who introduced Rev. C. W. Hahn, superintendent of the Ohio District, who in turn expressed a warm welcome for all the assembled delegates. By way of response, the chair expressed the appreciation felt by all the delegates for the welcome which had been accorded to them.

Visiting brethren were then introduced, including Reverend James Cross, Assistant General Overseer of the Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn., and Reverend R. O. Corvin, General Secretary of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, both of whom brought greetings from their respective communions. In the response made by the chair, mention was made of communications received from the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, the Open Bible Standard Churches and the Church of God in Christ, in which regret was expressed for inability to send representatives. However, a representative of the Church of God in Christ did arrive later and was introduced to the Council.

**Introduction of Executive Presbyters**

The chair introduced the members of the Executive Presbytery, consisting of Gayle F. Lewis, Bert Webb, Thomas F. Zimmerman, James O. Savell, J. Roswell Flower, Atwood Foster, Noel Perkin, Dwight H. McLaughlin, Howard S. Bush, Charles W. H. Scott and A. A. Wilson.

**Reading of Executive Reports**

The chair announced that executive and departmental reports had been prepared in printed form and had been supplied to all registered delegates. In accord with custom, a committee has been appointed to go over the printed reports and to bring in a resumé at the proper time. It was decided, however, that the reports of the General Superintendent, the Secretary and the Treasurer should be read. For the reading of the report of the General Superintendent, the chair was relinquished to Assistant General Superintendent, Gayle F. Lewis. The General Superintendent called attention to the Agenda for the General Council, copies of

which had been placed in the hands of all registered delegates. He then read his report, which consisted of a brief survey of the accomplishments in a number of areas of General Council ministries and services. The report was accepted as read.

The General Superintendent then returned to the chair and called for the reading of the Report of the General Secretary. Attention was again called to the printed report, and after its reading, the report of the General Secretary was accepted by motion.

The General Treasurer followed with the reading of his report, calling special attention to the Auditor's Report, in the center of the printed reports. The motion was made, seconded and carried that the report of the General Treasurer be accepted.

#### **General Council Invitation Committee**

The chair proceeded with the appointment of a committee to give consideration to invitations for the 1959 General Council. The committee consisted of Kelley Wigfield, Chairman, Robert Spencer, Lowell C. Ashbrook, Emil A. Balliet, Lyle B. Spradley.

#### **Committees**

Attention was called to the General Council brochure, in which there is a listing of Committees to serve this General Council as follows:

##### **Committee on Arrangements**

Thomas F. Zimmerman, Chairman; Bert Webb, and Charles W. H. Scott.

##### **Roster**

Arthur F. Berg, Chairman; Herbert E. Eicher, Thomas E. Hartshorn, Vernon L. Hertweck, Theodore E. Ness, Elton E. Noland, Vincent Roccaforte.

##### **Program**

D. Leroy Sanders, Chairman; Melvin M. Brewer, Jr., Dean E. Duncan, R. Hilton Griswold, James L. McQueen, Harry M. Myers.

##### **Vespers**

Dean E. Duncan, Chairman; J. Robert Ashcroft, C. Eugene Bell, Jerry Eskelin.

##### **Parliamentary Committee**

B. L. Bresson, Chairman; E. Elsworth Krogstad, Willis Berry.

##### **Resolutions**

Robert L. Brandt, Chairman; Robert E. Goggin, Louis H. Hauff, Robert G. McAllister, Jesse E. Smith, Roy H. Wead, W. Glenn West.

#### **Tellers**

Richard J. Bergstrom, Chairman; Willis E. Berry, Captain; Everett D. Cooley, Captain; Ralph M. Phillips, Captain; David A. Berquist, Paul R. Buchwalter, W. Douglas Carroll, Norman L. Correll, Richard D. Dobbins, Ernest R. Driver, Albert W. Earle, Paul W. Fenton, J. L. Gallman, Lawrence Green, Jr., Cecil L. Gruver, William F. Harding, Merle J. Harris, Harold R. Kennedy, Stanton E. Johnson, Arvid C. Kingsriter, Thurman A. McDonough, Robert E. Palmer, Talmadge B. Pierce, Jr., Kenneth R. Schmidt, Arthur L. Shell, Jr., LaVern H. Snyder, James H. Standifer, William L. Thornton, Jr.

#### **General Council Reports**

Claude J. Utley, Chairman; James F. Ballard, Joseph R. Flower, Wiley G. Hinecker, Charles A. Slaughter, J. A. Thomas, Oscar L. Thomas.

#### **Benevolence**

T. J. Gotcher, Chairman; J. B. Bishop, L. E. Halvorson, William H. Boyles, L. D. Doss, George E. Flower, Fred H. Huber, Fred Vogler, Curtis W. Ringness, Atwood Foster.

#### **Christ's Ambassadors**

Owen C. Carr, Chairman; Walter A. Boring, Richard D. Dobbins, Richard C. Fulmer, Roy A. Harthern, Thurman A. McDonough, Melvin Sasse.

#### **Education**

Charles W. H. Scott, Chairman; J. Robert Ashcroft, Robert L. Brandt, Charles E. Butterfield, N. D. Davidson, Paul J. Emery, Joseph R. Flower, Russell G. Fulford, Theodore E. Gannon, G. W. Hardcastle, Sr., Irvine J. Harrison, Cyril E. Homer, Leland R. Keys, Frank J. Lindquist, Bartlett Peterson, Jesse E. Smith, Thomas H. Spence, Claude J. Utley, Milton T. Wells, John B. Scott.

#### **Evangelism**

John H. Bostrom, Chairman; Martin L. Davidson, Watson Argue, L. B. (Bill) Lewis, Don Mallough, Andrew S. Teuber, Stephen Vandermerwe, Richard Vinyard.

#### **Foreign Missions**

E. Elsworth Krogstad, Chairman; George H. Carmichael, R. B. Cavaness, Jr., William S. Graham, James B. King, Noel Perkin, Andrew S. Stirling, Louis W. Stokes.

#### **Home Missions**

C. C. Crace, Chairman; Russell G. Fulford, Lowell C. Ashbrook, Joseph L. Gerhart, Raymond H. Hudson, Ernest P. Pruett, Victor D. Trimmer.

### **Men's Fellowship**

Doyle Burgess, Chairman; Nick Timko, E. Christofferson, Don Mallough, T. F. Zimmerman, A. A. Wilson.

### **Ministerial Relations**

Martin B. Netzel, Chairman; N. D. Davidson, Lester W. Dickinson, Earl W. Goodman, James D. Menzie, Paul C. Samuelson, W. R. Williamson.

### **Radio**

Grady L. Fannin, Chairman; G. Raymond Carlson, E. M. Clark, George J. Davis, Clarence W. Hahn, Leonard Palmer, Kermit A. Reneau, Kelley Wigfield, T. F. Zimmerman.

### **Sunday Schools**

Paul W. Fenton, Chairman; Melvin M. Brewer, Jr., Cecil M. Parrish, Leon L. Miles, Charles W. Denton.

### **General Council Reports Committee**

The Committee which had been appointed to examine the reports of the General Council Departments, as submitted in the printed Report, presented its report through the committee secretary, Joseph R. Flower, as follows:

1. It is to be noted that at the last General Council there was a recommendation for a reduction in the budget. The General Presbytery authorized a reduction which has been exceeded in the over-all picture, although some departments must still be subsidized.

2. The Gospel Publishing House has shown a marked increase in total sales, although the percentage of profit has declined slightly.

3. There has been a steady increase in total giving to World Missions, yet your Reports Committee wishes to point out that our giving to missions has not kept pace with a substantially increased membership and the declining value of the dollar. Our per capita giving is only \$6.56, or less than two cents per day for each member of the Assemblies of God in the United States. This trend we view with some alarm.

Special commendation is due the Foreign Missions Department for its efficient administration, the WMC's for their self-sacrificial work in behalf of missions and the C. A.'s for their valuable assistance in providing speed-the-Light equipment.

4. The Home Missions Department is to be commended for the valuable services rendered in the special ministries under its jurisdiction.

5. The Radio Department is to be highly commended for its ability to pay its way. This indicates that the

response to Revivaltime from the public is most gratifying.

6. The Reports Committee wishes to point out that one of the greatest needs of our fellowship is increased support of the Benevolence Department. The Committee wishes to commend this department to our churches as worthy of greater co-operative effort. As time goes on, our responsibility toward our aged ministers will not lessen, but rather increase. This need will require greater emphasis on the part of the districts and churches in order to meet the need.

7. The editors of our Sunday School Department are to be commended for the fine work being done, which is evidenced in substantial sales to other than Assemblies of God folk.

Your General Council Reports Committee wishes to call your attention to the comprehensive financial reports of all departments in the printed booklet distributed to all ministers and delegates, and in particular to the auditor's statements in the center pages. All were examined and found to be well prepared and presented. In view of this, we submit the following resolution:

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

This committee wishes to express appreciation to the brethren who serve this fellowship, for the efficient manner in which they have conducted the affairs of their departments.

The chairman wishes to express his personal appreciation to the following members who served with him on the Reports Committee: James F. Ballard, Joseph R. Flower, Wiley G. Hinecker, Charles A. Slaughter, J. A. Thomas, Oscar L. Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

Claude J. Utley, Chairman

The Reports Committee moved the adoption of the resolution incorporated in the report, and the motion was seconded and passed. The chair declared this action includes the acceptance of the entire report.

The motion to adjourn was made at 12:00 noon, and the meeting was dismissed with prayer offered by R. O. Corvin.

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON**

The afternoon meeting was opened at 2:00 o'clock with a brief devotional period followed by

### Introduction of Guests

Walter E. McAlister, superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, was introduced by Thomas F. Zimmerman, and he in turn conveyed to the General Council the greetings of the Canadian brethren and then extended an invitation to the great convention of the World Pentecostal Fellowship to be held in Toronto, Ontario, September 14-21, 1958.

The Church of God in Christ was represented by Reverend R. H. Holmes, Chairman of the Board of Elders of Ohio, who brought greetings from that body.

T. F. Zimmerman stated that Brother Louis F. Turnbull, a veteran minister and missionary of the Assemblies of God, who has been bedfast for some months, has sent a message of love and greetings to this General Council. The motion was made by Howard S. Bush that this body go on record as returning greetings to Brother Turnbull, and that the message be conveyed to him by the General Secretary. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Amendments to Constitution

The chair then announced there are several items of unfinished business to be considered, including proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. He stated that in compliance with Article XII of the Constitution, proper notification of the proposed amendments has been sent to the Districts prior to this meeting.

The first proposed amendment affected Article IX, Officers, Section 3, entitled GENERAL PRESBYTERY, and involved representation on the General Presbytery by the foreign fields. The proposed amendment was as follows:

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, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

The motion was made that this amendment to the Constitution be adopted.

In the debate which followed, the opinion was expressed that the appointment of these representatives by the Executive Presbytery would indicate a "dangerous trend", inasmuch as all other members of the General Presbytery, with the exception of the Foreign Field Secretaries, are chosen democratically to serve on this body.

Finally the motion was made to refer this proposed amendment back to the committee of origin, for the purpose of reforming its wording. The motion was seconded and carried.

### Evangelists on General Presbytery

The motion was then made to adopt a further amendment to Article IX, Section 3, by the addition after Par. 3 of the following:

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

A member of the Committee on Evangelism which had proposed this amendment at the 1955 General Council was asked to explain the reason for this proposal, and the response was to the effect there is a need for the inclusion of representative evangelists on the General Presbytery.

In the debate which followed, it was pointed out that evangelists are members of District Councils, and should evangelists be nominated and elected, the district from which the evangelist is chosen would have four members on the General Presbytery, whereas other districts would have three members each.

When the motion was voted upon, it was lost.

### Foreign Language Branches

The chair called attention to the fact it has been proposed to amend the Constitution by a simple transfer from Article IX, Sec. 5 of the Bylaws the paragraph providing for foreign language branches, to become Article XI of the Constitution.

The motion was made, seconded and carried that this transfer be effected.

The chair ruled that the secretary will be privileged to edit the article and also to renumber Articles XI and XII of the Constitution to become Articles XII and XIII.

### Amendments to Bylaws

Reference was made to the printed brochure containing proposed amendments to the Bylaws, and it was explained it is necessary that these proposed amendments be adopted due to the fact the articles affecting General Council Departments have been adopted at various meetings of the General Council, when the departments were instituted, without regard to uniformity in administrative construction. The proposed amendments were presented first to the General Council of 1955, but due to lack of time for full consideration, action was postponed until this meeting. The purpose back of these proposed amendments is therefore primarily to bring about uniformity in the structure of all departments. The first amendment to be given consideration was that pertaining to the Home Missions Department.

### **Amendment Article—Home Missions Department**

The motion was made and seconded for the adoption of the amendment to Article IX, Home Missions, of the By-laws as presented in the brochure. C. C. Crace, chairman of the Home Missions Committee then moved the proposed amendment be amended by substitution, as follows:

#### **Section 1. Authorization and Scope**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the Gospel in the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be a Home Missions Department. The work of this department shall include: (1) Church Extension (2) Ministry among those people in the United States and in the Territory of Alaska who are in need of special ministry by reason of language barriers, physical confinement, handicaps, comparative isolation or religious prejudices (3) General supervision of the various foreign language branches that are now or may hereafter be authorized.

#### **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 Home Missions who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the Home Missions Department.

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

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

e. National representatives to serve in specific areas of Home Missions work may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery as it becomes advisable and practical.

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

#### **Section 3. Church Extension Division**

a. The Church Extension Division of the Home Missions Department shall function in co-operation with the various Districts in helping and encouraging pioneer pastors and established churches to enter new fields.

b. Practical aid shall be provided through:

- (1) Maintaining Revolving Loan Funds.

- (2) Providing Building Plans at a nominal fee.

- (3) Supplying the pioneer pastor with literature for distribution and other helps.

c. The Division shall constantly seek to develop and promote the Church Extension program by offering new and practical helps whenever possible.

#### **Section 4. Special Ministries Division**

a. The Special Ministries Division shall function in co-operation with the various Districts.

b. The work of this Division shall include ministry to the Jews, the American Indians, the deaf, the blind, prisoners, the population of Alaska, and the foreign-language groups of the United States.

c. Home Missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Department with the approval of his or her home District and the District in which the missionary will be working. The appointments are subject to annual renewal.

d. All appointed home missionaries shall be expected to work in accord with the policies of the department as set forth in the home missionary manual.

#### **Section 5. Finances**

a. The Department shall be financed by World Missions offerings, gifts, contributions, and such funds as may be assigned for this purpose.

b. Where missionary support is necessary, home missionaries shall be expected to obtain sufficient pledged support before entering their field of ministry.

c. Missionary credit will be given for funds given to appointed home missionaries and to home missionary projects approved by the District and Home Missions Department.

#### **Section 6. Branches**

The foreign language groups and branches shall operate under the general supervision of the Home Missions Department. They shall be allowed that independence of operation which is accorded District Councils within the framework of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws. In order to promote a spirit of fellowship between them, the Branch officials and the Home Missions Department shall consult and co-operate with the officials of the District concerning the entering and/or maintenance of a work in a given area.

The motion to amend by substitution was passed. The motion to adopt the amendment as amended was then made, seconded and passed.

### **Sunday School Department**

The amendment to Article XI, Sunday School Department, was presented and the motion to adopt was made, seconded and passed without debate. The Bylaw as amended is being published in the Revised Bylaws of the General Council.

### **Department of Publications**

The motion was made to adopt the proposed amendment to Article XII, Department of Publications. After some debate and the failure of an attempt to amend, the motion to adopt was carried.

### **Christ's Ambassadors Department**

The motion was made to adopt the Amendment to Article XIII, Young People's Department, and the motion was seconded. There was brief debate resulting in a motion to amend the amendment by changing the wording of "Young People's Department" to "Christ's Ambassadors Department" throughout the article, with the exception of the first paragraph where the department is first identified as the Young People's Department. The motion was seconded and passed. The motion to amend, as amended, was then passed.

### **Radio Department**

The motion was made to adopt the amendment to Article XIV, Radio Department and this was seconded. During the brief debate, it was moved that the word "Broadcasting" be substituted for the word "Radio", but the motion was lost. Attention was called to the use of the word "Commission" in the article, which should be changed for the sake of uniformity to the word "Committee." By common consent, this change was agreed to. The motion to adopt then carried.

### **Department of Finance**

It was moved and the motion was seconded that we adopt the Amendment as proposed for Article XV, Finance, and the motion was adopted without debate.

### **Department of Benevolence**

When the matter of the amendment of Article XVI, Department of Benevolences, was presented, the motion was made that this item be laid on the table until after the report of the Benevolence Committee had been presented. The motion was seconded and passed, and the proposed amendment to Article XVI was laid on the table.

### **Women's Missionary Council**

The motion to adopt the amendment to Article XVII, Women's Missionary Council, was seconded and carried without debate.

### **Men's Fellowship Department**

It was moved that Article XVIII, Men's Fellowship Department, be amended as proposed, and the motion was seconded and carried without debate.

The motion to adjourn carried, and the congregation rose and sang the Doxology. The meeting was dismissed with prayer, at 4:30 p.m.

### **FRIDAY MORNING**

The meeting was opened on Friday morning with the usual devotional period after which the chair called for the reading of the minutes of the meetings of the previous day. The minutes were read by the secretary and when it was ascertained there were no corrections, they were declared to be approved as read.

### **Election of Officers**

The motion was made, seconded and carried that the first order of business on Saturday morning be the election of officers.

### **Report of Benevolence Committee**

The chair called upon T. J. Gotcher, chairman of the Benevolence Committee, to read the Committee Report. The report was read as follows:

The General Council Benevolence Committee has reviewed the work of the Department of Benevolences with the purpose of evaluating the progress of the department in the light of our over-all growth as a movement.

The role of the Department of Benevolences is that of leadership and service in assisting needy aged ministers and missionaries as well as homeless and underprivileged children. It is the responsibility of the department to lead our churches in ministering to the material needs of those for whom we are responsible.

We have a good benevolence program, as far as it goes and your committee commends to the General Council in session the work of the Department.

Your committee would also commend the churches and individuals who have seen the vision and who have contributed regularly for the support of this work. About five hundred (500) churches have written "Benevolences" into their budgets and these churches give approximately one-fourth of the total amount received each year for Aged Ministers' Assistance. From 2,000 to 2,500 churches make semi-annual contributions to the aged Ministers' Assistance Fund each year. The many benevolences projects sponsored by the Women's Missionary Councils are also gratefully acknowledged.

There is another side of the picture that we would call to your attention. Although giving aid to the poor, the widows and orphans is a basic ministry of the church (Gal. 2:10) less than one-third of our churches can be said to contribute regularly. In fact, only one-half of our churches have sent as much as one offering in the last five years to support the Assemblies of God Benevolences ministries.

For the past five years offerings from the churches have failed to cover our Aged Ministers' Assistance program, even though the amount disbursed to needy aged ministers and widows is a mere pittance. An average of \$23.80 per individual per month is being sent to 259 ministers, missionaries, their wives or widows.

The National Children's Home (Hot Springs, Ark.) has operated in the black, but it has had no margin for needed equipment and building improvements. A \$10,000 loan was transacted recently to enable the management to complete essential improvement projects.

Appeals have been made for both Aged Ministers' Assistance and the National Children's Home as provided by the General Council Bylaws, but adequate income to support the Benevolences program has not been raised. As a result, we, as a thriving movement, have given less than three cents per member per month to national benevolence ministries. Four cents per member per month would adequately support the present program. Five cents per member per month would allow for a further outreach in this field we have hardly begun to reach.

Your committee would therefore recommend:

1. That we re-affirm Article XVI, Section 3 of the General Council Bylaws which reads as follows: "Each church in the fellowship is expected to co-operate by sending two special offerings annually for national benevolences, or by placing the Department of Benevolences on its monthly budget."
2. That each District shall appoint a standing committee which shall promote Benevolences ministries throughout the District.
3. That Men's Fellowship and Women's Missionary Council Departments be encouraged to promote and sponsor Benevolences Ministries.
4. That the Department of Benevolences be encouraged by the faithful support of the churches to broaden its program of aid through the establishment of child placement agencies licensed by the state to place children in foster and adoptive homes.
5. That a program of "church credit" be adopted by

the General Council that will include contributions to Benevolences ministries.

6. That active ordained and licensed ministers of the Assemblies of God be urged to arrange for retirement support through the Government Social Security program and by enrolling in the Assemblies of God Ministers' Benefit Association.

Furthermore, your committee proposes the following resolutions for amendment of the proposed amendments of Article XVI of the General Council Bylaws:

**RESOLVED**, That Article XVI, Section 1, **Authorization and purpose** be amended as follows: "There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall have the responsibility of administration of the Aged Ministers' Assistance Fund, the oversight of Assemblies of God homes for the aged, children's homes, child placement agencies, and the administration of any other benevolent services which may be committed to it."

**RESOLVED**, That Article XVI, Section 3 be amended to read as follows: "The Department shall be authorized to solicit regular contributions from the ministers and churches of the Assemblies of God. Each church in the fellowship is expected to co-operate by sending two special offerings annually for National Benevolences, or by placing the Department of Benevolences in its monthly budget."

**RESOLVED**, That Article XVI, Section 6, **District Council Benevolent** institutions, be amended to include the words, "and child placement agencies" after the words, "children's homes."

Respectfully submitted

T. J. Gotcher, Chairman	Wm. H. Boyles
L. E. Halvorson	L. D. Doss
J. B. Bishop	Frederick H. Huber
George E. Flower	Curtis W. Ringness
Fred Vogler	Atwood Foster

The chairman of the committee moved the acceptance of the report. The motion was seconded and carried.

He then read the six recommendations contained in the report and moved their adoption. The motion was seconded and carried.

Amendment of Article XVI, Department of Benevolences

The chairman of the committee then moved that we take from the table the proposed amendment of Article XVI, Department of Benevolences as printed in the brochure, and the motion was seconded and passed.

On motion, the Committee's recommendation for an amendment by substitution to the proposed amendment of Article XVI, Section 1 was adopted.

It was then moved that the proposed amendment of Section 2, Government and Organization (as printed) be adopted. The motion was seconded and adopted.

On motion, the Committee's recommendation for the amendment by substitution to the proposed amendment of Article XVI, Section 3 was adopted.

Sections 4 and 5 of the proposed amendments of Article XVI as printed in the booklet, were then adopted by motion.

It was then moved that the amendment to the amendment in Section 6 of the Bylaws be adopted as proposed by the committee. This amendment merely provided for the inclusion in the section of the words "and child placement agencies." This motion was also seconded and passed.

The amendment of Article XVI, as amended by action of the Council was then adopted as a replacement for the wording of this article in the Bylaws. Following adoption, the chairman of the committee added a further word of admonition that our own Assemblies of God churches respond more freely to the many needs of the Benevolence Department.

#### **Administrative Expense—Foreign Missions Department**

The Secretary was requested to read a recommendation received from the General Presbytery to the effect that the Bylaws be amended to allow up to 10% of the undesignated funds of the Foreign Missions Department to be used for administrative expense. It was then moved by N. D. Davidson and the motion was seconded that this amendment to the Bylaws be adopted. (See Bylaws Article VIII, Sec. 3, d.)

Although the Foreign Missions Committee was not prepared to submit its full report, the chairman of the committee, E. E. Krogstad, was called upon to submit its recommendation for this feature of the report. Several questions were asked from the floor pertaining to the amounts presently being used by the Foreign Missions Department for administrative expense, such as the amount of the portion received under the World Missions Plan. In reply, the answer was given that while the World Missions Plan has been approved, many churches do not use this plan, and in many cases, no allowance is made for office expense and department administration. In reply to the question as to what percentage of all Foreign Missions giving is "undesignated," the Foreign Missions Secretary explained that about one-sixth of the whole amount received is undesignated. When the

motion was voted upon, the motion to amend the Bylaws was adopted.

The secretary then read a second recommendation received from the General Presbytery to the effect that the sum set aside from undesignated funds during the past fiscal year, in the amount of \$46,000.00 be granted to the Foreign Missions Department for administrative expense. It was explained that the tentative approval had been given some months ago for the setting aside of up to 10% of undesignated offerings in the hope authorization will be given for the use of this money to assist in the expense of administration of the department. The motion was made and seconded that this appropriation be approved, and the motion was adopted.

The morning meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

#### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

##### **Introduction of Guests**

Following the brief devotional period in which prayer was offered for the recovery from illness of a minister in Tulsa, Okla., Assistant General Superintendent Thos. F. Zimmerman introduced Dr. George Ford, Executive Director of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Dr. Ford brought words of greeting to the Council and expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Assemblies of God in the evangelical movement. He used for a text Ephesians 4:14, 15. His subject was Christian Maturity. He called attention to the growing need because of world tensions for evangelical groups to bind themselves together in Christian unity. He called for a total surrender to the Lord, that we should be empowered by the Spirit, by the love of the Father, and the Spirit of Christ. He also called attention to NAE literature which was available—a folder entitled "Strength of Christian Unity," a book on Church Extension and the official organ of the NAE, "United Action."

At the conclusion of Brother Ford's message, the congregation rose and sang the choruses, "Thank You Lord for Saving my Soul" and "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord."

The General Superintendent requested the voting constituency to be seated in the designated places in order to expedite the business of the Council. When this had been accomplished, he introduced Bert Webb, Assistant General Superintendent, requesting that he serve as chairman of the meeting during the afternoon.

##### **Co-operative Fellowship Giving**

The Report of the Committee on Denominational Credit had been prepared for presentation in two parts, and the

first part was presented by the chairman of the committee, James Hamill, as follows:

WHEREAS, All phases of our ministry of stewardship are equally important to the advancement of the cause of Christ and should receive due recognition and credit; and, WHEREAS some of our Bible Schools and Districts have requested recognition for those churches which support their programs, and WHEREAS our world missions giving is not fully revealed by the present way of reporting, and WHEREAS it is apparent that the earnings of the Gospel Publishing House cannot continue to finance the cost of administration of our expanding ministries and at the same time provide for its own expansion and pay for a much needed administration building, and WHEREAS we wish to hold out the hope of eventual elimination of the many appeals received from the various departments of the General Council, and WHEREAS the principle of giving recognition to all churches for what they have given to the evangelism of the world is the purpose for creating what is being called CO-OPERATIVE FELLOWSHIP GIVING:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we recommend the institution of a plan of Co-operative Fellowship Giving which will provide recognition and credit to our local churches for all denominational giving, both District and General Council. This will include World Missions, Radio, Benevolences, Educational Institutions and the national service departments (i.e., Executive Offices, Sunday School, Christ's Ambassadors, Evangelism, Men's Fellowship, Women's Missionary Council and Education), together with other General Council, Regional and District sponsored projects.

The motion was made and seconded that this resolution be adopted. During the discussion of the motion, it was moved the resolution be amended by the insertion of the words "credit for" between the words "fellowship" and "giving." This motion was seconded and carried. Later, the motion was made that the words "credit for" be inserted before the words "fellowship giving" in every place where it would seem to be an appropriate reading. Finally, the observation was made that the secretary be authorized to edit the entire report to incorporate the thought of credit for giving, without doing violence to grammatical construction of the resolution and this observation was approved.

The first portion of the report of the committee, including the resolution, was then adopted.

The chairman of the committee then presented the second part of the Report as follows:

### Credit for Denominational Giving

For the purpose of implementing the plan of co-operative fellowship giving, it is recommended that:

1. The General Treasurer institute a program of stewardship service, providing counselling and helps to local churches on budgets and other financial matters. Such service should be designed to assist in increasing local income and encourage participation in co-operative fellowship giving.

2. In order to assist our Executives with the burden and responsibility of raising finances, we recommend that a Standing Committee on Finance be appointed by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council from among the constituency on the field. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and will serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. It shall be their further responsibility to assist in promoting co-operative fellowship giving throughout the constituency.

3. It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches adopt CO-OPERATIVE FELLOWSHIP GIVING, which means that:

- a. Their regular contributions are made to the District.
- b. Their monthly World Missions offerings are sent each month.
- c. A regular monthly contribution be sent to the General Council for other ministries (benevolences, radio, education, etc., etc.)
4. In order to promote and encourage co-operative fellowship giving it is recommended that:
  - a. Churches participating in co-operative fellowship giving be given the assurance that they are contributing toward the goal of eventual elimination of other appeals from General Council headquarters.
  - b. That all local churches be sent a quarterly statement informing them of their progress in co-operative fellowship giving.
  - c. That a system of grouping or classifying of churches be instituted for the purpose of giving special recognition in response to co-operative fellowship giving.
  - d. That all departments and personnel of General and District Council offices co-operate in a united ef-

fort to promote co-operative fellowship giving through the Pentecostal Evangel, other General Council and District Council periodicals and by all other available means.

James Hamill, Chairman	Guy Bayse
Charles E. Blair	Eugene Born
Harry M. Myers	Andrew Nelli
R. D. E. Smith	Roy H. Wead

On motion, it was decided to consider the sections of the report, seriatim. There was considerable debate on each of the four sections of part two of the Report of the Committee, but each section was adopted by motion.

#### A Question of Parliamentary Procedure

A motion was made that the report as a whole be adopted. The question arose as to the necessity of adopting a report as a whole following the adoption of the report in all its parts. The chair asked for a ruling by the Parliamentarians. The chairman of the Parliamentarians read from Roberts Rules of Order, page 164 and ruled that it is not necessary to adopt a report as a whole following the adoption of its component parts. Nevertheless, in keeping with tradition, it was decided to recognize the motion to adopt the report as a whole, and the report was so adopted.

#### General Council Financing

During the debate on the Report of the Committee on Co-operative Fellowship Giving, by a request of special privilege, Thomas R. Brubaker submitted a report on the financing of the General Council. He stated the budget for the financing of this General Council is \$15,000.00. Five thousand of this sum will be received from registrations, charges for booth space and offerings from the churches in the Cleveland area. The use of the auditorium alone will cost \$8,500.00. He called attention to the fact that the Council will not receive the benefit of offerings on Friday night since that is Home Missions night, or on Sunday afternoon, since that will be a Foreign Missions Rally.

N. D. Davidson asked for a question of privilege and when recognition was given he presented the need for a good offering to assist in the defraying of the expense of this General Council. There was a generous response from all present.

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Following the devotional period, the business meeting of the Council was opened at 10:50 a.m. The chair turned the gavel over to Assistant Superintendent, Gayle F. Lewis, who then presided over the morning meeting.

The chair called upon the secretary for the reading of the minutes of the Friday meetings. There being no corrections, the minutes were declared to be approved as read.

#### First Report of Roster Committee

Arthur F. Berg, chairman of the Roster Committee submitted the first report of that committee as follows:

Ordained ministers registered.....	1,655
Lay delegates .....	387

Total number of voters.....	2,042
-----------------------------	-------

Visitors registered .....	935
---------------------------	-----

Total registration to date .....	2,977
----------------------------------	-------

The motion was made, seconded and passed that the partial report of the Roster Committee be accepted.

#### Election of Officers

In keeping with the action taken on Friday morning, the first order of business was the election of officers. Kenneth Haystead moved that if there be a two-thirds vote for any one candidate on the nominating ballot, an election be declared. The motion was seconded and passed. After prayer, offered by A. A. Wilson, the nominating ballot was cast for General Superintendent. While the ballots were being counted, the Council proceeded with other business.

#### Introduction of the Hon. Mark Hatfield

N. D. Davidson, Superintendent of the Oregon District, rose to a question of privilege and when granted recognition, he introduced the Honorable Mark Hatfield, Secretary of State of Oregon. Mr. Hatfield's preliminary remarks concerning the advantages of the state of Oregon, served to bring about a unique presentation of an invitation for the 1959 General Council to be held in Portland, Oregon. The invitation was heartily received, and then committed to the Committee on General Council invitations. Mr. Hatfield's presentation was concluded by a rising vote of appreciation and a round of applause by the assembly.

By rising for a question of privilege, Rev. Fred Vogler requested deletion from the minutes of a remark made the previous day by the chairman of the committee on the financing of the General Council to the effect that so far as he knew Oklahoma City (1955) was the only city where the budget for the General Council had been met. He stated that the budget had been met at Grand Rapids, Seattle, Wash. and at other General Councils. The minutes were corrected accordingly.

#### The "Christian Cadets" program

The Secretary was called upon to present the program of

"Christian Cadets," inasmuch as the program had been presented to the General Presbytery by its author, and had received tentative approval. He prefaced his report by stating that Robert G. Putnam had first appeared before the General Presbytery a year ago, and at that time had been encouraged to proceed with its promotion and to report back to the General Presbytery in 1957, which he did at this year's session.

- The program is designed for boys and girls between the ages of nine and twelve and is for the purpose of
- Indoctrination in the teachings of the Church
- Training them in Christian character
- Providing wholesome recreation in a Christian environment

At the present time, organized troops are found in twenty-seven districts. 1,350 churches have Christian Cadet troops, with 70 chartered troops. There are now about four thousand Christian Cadets, with 450 workers.

The secretary moved that the program of Christian Cadets be approved and the motion was seconded. During the discussion which followed, the opinion was expressed that inasmuch as there is already within the structure of our National Sunday School Department a program of child evangelism, it would be improper to endorse a program which might be parallel to one within one of our national departments. It was stated there may be scores of programs introduced by other individuals who are seeking their adoption by the General Council.

The motion was then made, seconded and carried that this matter of approval of the "Christian Cadet" program be laid on the table until the afternoon meeting.

**Election of General Superintendent**

Richard J. Bergstrom, chairman of the tellers' committee brought in the report of the committee as follows:

Number of nominating ballots cast .....	1540
Number required for election .....	1027
Votes cast for Ralph M. Riggs .....	1066

Ralph M. Riggs was therefore declared to be re-elected to the office of General Superintendent on the nominating ballot.

Ballots were then cast for four Assistant General Superintendents and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 with prayer by Ralph M. Riggs.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

**American Bible Society Representative**

Following the devotional period, C. C. Burnett who had served the American Bible Society as field secretary for a

number of years, introduced Rev. Paul Colliers, American Bible Society foreign secretary for Europe and Central and South America. Rev. Colliers appealed to the Assemblies of God to give greater support to the American Bible Society inasmuch as the Society is making available to our workers throughout the world Scriptures for their work. He stated, it has been the experience of Christianity that where the Scriptures are widely distributed, the church is growing and putting down its roots. One question before us is whether the Assemblies of God is going to put into the hands of our own missionaries the tools they need for world-wide evangelism, and this can be done only as the cost of underwriting the expense of publication of the Scriptures is met by denominational contributions. Having visited the Assemblies of God in Peru, he conveyed to this assembly the greetings of our workers in that land.

Dr. C. M. Wortman, Secretary of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, was introduced by Brother Riggs, and he spoke briefly, mentioning the ways in which the P.A.O.C. and the Assemblies of God work closely together. He also extended an invitation to all to attend the World Pentecostal Fellowship Convention, scheduled to be held in Toronto in September of 1958.

Dr. Wortman was then requested to invoke God's blessing on the deliberations of this Council, which he did.

**Election of Assistant General Superintendents**

Richard J. Bergstrom, chairman of the tellers committee, brought in the report of the tellers on the nominating ballot for Assistant General Superintendents, and declared that the total ballots cast numbered 1390. Three incumbents in office were re-elected to office, receiving the following votes:

Thomas F. Zimmerman .....	1,283
Gayle F. Lewis .....	1,243
Bert Webb.....	1,195

The three re-elected assistant superintendents in turn expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence given them and pledged themselves to serve the Lord and this constituency to the best of their ability during the next two years, in the will of God.

Rev. James O. Savell rose to a question of privilege and when it was granted, addressed the assembly and reviewed briefly his ministry in the Assemblies of God during the past forty-some years. He expressed appreciation for the honor bestowed upon him five years ago to serve in an executive capacity, during which time he has enjoyed wonderful fellowship with his brethren. He has accepted the call to a pastorate of a church in Texas, and is assured

this nominating ballot is a confirmation to him of the step he has taken.

James Van Meter proposed a standing vote of appreciation for the ministry and leadership of Brother Savell during the past forty-some years of service, and especially for his service in the office of Assistant General Superintendent, and that this body express to him our continued love and prayers for God's blessing upon him in his future ministry. The congregation rose and applauded in an expression of appreciation.

The general superintendent also expressed his appreciation for the five years of association with Brother Savell and stated the Executives have respected his conviction concerning the step he is taking into another ministry.

#### **Balloting for Election of Fourth Assistant General Superintendent**

Three of the Assistant General Superintendents having been elected on the nominating ballot, ballots were cast to choose from among the nominees, the fourth Assistant General Superintendent. Business was resumed during the time allotted for the counting of ballots. 1419 votes were cast on the first elective ballot, and no nominee received a sufficient number for election. 1332 votes were cast on the second elective ballot, and no nominee received a sufficient number for election. It was then decided to list the three nominees who had received the greatest number of votes as follows:

Charles W. H. Scott.....	578
Howard S. Bush.....	240
Dwight H. McLaughlin .....	243

No election was declared on Saturday, and balloting was resumed on Monday morning.

#### **Approval of American Bible Society**

Immediately after the casting of the first elective ballot, C. C. Burnett rose on a question of privilege and when granted recognition moved that in view of the services that have been rendered to the Assemblies of God at home and abroad by the American Bible Society, and in view of the decreasing amount of support evidenced in the past several years, that this General Council go on record as reaffirming its approval of the great work of the American Bible Society and that we encourage all our churches and ministers to support the work of the Society as our official Bible distributing agency with our prayers and offerings. The motion was seconded and passed, and the General Secretary was instructed to write to the Society to report this action of the General Council.

#### **Report of Evangelism Committee**

The report of the General Council Committee on Evangelism was read by the chairman of the Committee, Rev. John Bostrom, who called attention to the progress that has been made since the establishment of the Department of Evangelism in 1955. He urged that our church calendars do not become so filled up with other events that there is no room for old-fashioned revival campaigns. The report contained the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Most of our churches have made no provision in their financial setup to provide for revival campaign expenses, which condition often results in embarrassment, misunderstandings, dissatisfaction, and inadequate remuneration for the evangelists.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we recommend that our pastors and/or church boards arrange to have (either by budget, percentage, revival fund, or other means) sufficient monies allocated for revival campaign use, prior to the launching of such campaigns, such monies to supplement the campaign offerings.

In explanation of this resolution, it was stated that if churches will follow this recommendation, the arrangement will be a vast improvement over the haphazard methods generally followed, which is so often controlled by wind and weather.

The motion was made, seconded and passed that the report of the Committee on Evangelism be received. The motion was then made and seconded that the resolution contained in the report be adopted. After brief debate the motion passed.

#### **Reinstatement of Evangelism Convention**

Reference was made to the holding of Evangelism Conventions, the last one having been held in Memphis, Tenn. in 1955. It was urged that Evangelism Conventions be revived.

A. A. Wilson then moved, and the motion was seconded and passed, that the Department of Evangelism be requested to reinstate the Evangelism Convention as an annual affair.

#### **Report of Foreign Missions Committee**

The chair called for the presentation of the report of the Foreign Missions Committee, by its chairman, Rev. E. E. Krogstad. After the reading of the report, the committee chairman moved its adoption. It was decided by motion to consider the recommendations seriatim.

Attention was called in the report to many of the advances made during the past two years, as described in the printed report which was submitted to this General Council. In

consideration thereof, the following observations were made:

1. There are at least twenty-four countries without an Assemblies of God missionary. Some of these countries are wide open and the people are imploring us to send them workers.
2. Of the fields we now occupy, many are under-staffed and must have more missionaries. Only lack of finances prohibits the sending forth of a host of additional workers.
3. The consecration of our Assemblies of God youth in America is not diminishing, as evidenced by the fact the Foreign Missions Department is flooded with applications of young men and women who are anxious to volunteer for missionary duty.
4. The Assemblies of God missionary program and its challenge is of such magnitude that it needs every dollar every Assemblies of God person can give to support and enlarge it.
5. If every one of our 471,115 members in the Assemblies of God will give an additional 10 cents a week for missions we will have nearly 2½ million dollars a year increase, and with this we can almost double our present missionary program.

In view of these facts, the committee recommended the adoption of a GLOBAL ADVANCE 10-60 program, with the following as tentative goals:

- 10c more a week a member to be given for missions
- 60 additional missionaries by 1960 (to our 760 now)
- 10 new fields to be entered by 1960
- 60 Bible institutes now—6 more by 1960
- 60 gospel broadcasts on foreign fields by 1960
- 10,000 national workers by 1960—present number 8,000
- 600,000 foreign members by 1960
- 6 foreign print shops now—10 by 1960
- 10 foreign bookstores by 1960

The motion to approve this recommendation was seconded and carried. Consideration was then given to the second recommendation:

We recommend further that a careful study be made of the personal needs of the missionaries on each field by missionaries with the assistance of the Foreign Missions Department to the end that we may bring about a more uniform standard of equipment for our missionaries lest one be undersupplied while another has abundance.

An explanation was made of this recommendation to the effect that it has been observed if there be too great a

difference in the equipment of missionaries, it may tend to cause friction on the field. The motion to adopt was seconded and passed.

The third recommendation was then given consideration as follows:

We urge greater emphasis upon the spiritual features of our missionary endeavor, for while pictures from the field are educational and frequently serve a beneficial purpose, no substitute has ever been found for anointed Spirit-filled preaching to stir the hearts of the people to deeper consecration and sacrifice for the regions beyond.

The motion to adopt this recommendation was seconded and carried.

The fourth recommendation concerned the WORLD CHALLENGE, the missionary periodical published in behalf of the Foreign Missions Program of the Assemblies of God:

1. That the Executive Presbytery reconsider the advisability of granting missionary credit for bundle roll subscriptions to WORLD CHALLENGE and that our pastors be encouraged to order by bundle subscription. That the WORLD CHALLENGE be distributed to Sunday School classes, etc.
2. That persons who make pledges to missions at our local, district and regional conventions be given a one-year subscription to WORLD CHALLENGE, for the purpose of acquainting them with what their money is helping to do.
3. That the Foreign Missions Department investigate the advisability of accepting a limited amount of paid advertising in the WORLD CHALLENGE to help defray publishing cost.
4. That we advertise the WORLD CHALLENGE in the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL and on Revivaltime.

The motion was made, seconded and passed that this recommendation also be adopted.

The Committee on Foreign Missions had also consulted with representatives of the Special Study Committee on Foreign Missions, and in accord with certain recommendations made by that committee, and approved by the General Presbytery, now offers certain amendments to Article III, Section 5, Duties of the Foreign Missions Secretary, as follows:

RESOLVED, That we amend Article III, Section 5, of our Bylaws so that it will read as follows:

"He shall be the Executive Director of the Foreign Missions Department, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery. Under his direction the following duties and services shall be rendered:

The motion to amend was seconded and carried. It was then moved and the motion was seconded that the above resolution, together with balance of Article III, Section 5 be edited to conform to the foregoing resolution. The motion was adopted.

#### **Amendment to Article VIII of the Bylaws**

The chairman of the Committee then submitted the following:

WHEREAS, There is strong sentiment both at home and abroad for increased pastoral and missionary representation on the Foreign Missions Board,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Article VIII, Section 2, Par. (a) be amended to read as follows:

#### **Section 2. Government and Organization**

a. The Foreign Missions Board shall consist of the Executive Director of the Department, two executive presbyters, four field secretaries and six pastors of proven missionary zeal and accomplishments, who shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery from the six established geographical areas of the United States and ratified by the General Presbytery in session.

The term of office of the appointed pastors shall be for three (3) years and so arranged that one-third of the terms expire annually. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the responsibilities of this Board, in addition to those stated in Article VIII, Section 2 (a), Paragraph 3, on page 76 of our Bylaws of 1955, shall be:

1. Consistently evaluate missions policies in the light of changing conditions.
2. Devise and publish a code of jurisdiction that will serve to guide the Department and Board in matters of discipline.
3. Establish clear, decisive standards of ethics that shall govern in the relationships between all parties concerned with the missionary program.
4. To declare clearly the position of the Board in matters relating to specific field problems.
5. To sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to field and Department decisions.

An attempt was made to amend paragraph (a) by the selecting of six non-resident members from either the ministry or the laity, but the attempt failed. The motion to adopt as presented by the committee prevailed.

Further recommendations, contained in the Report of the

Foreign Missions Committee were given consideration as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Foreign Missions Board shall nominate four (4) missionaries, who will at that time be home on furlough, from each general area represented by the four (4) field secretaries of the Foreign Missions Department, who preferably shall have had administrative experience in the Field Fellowship, to serve on the General Presbytery. A ballot shall be provided for each area and sent to all missionaries who shall by their vote select two (2) to represent them on the General Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect, and a report made of the ballots cast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary be instructed to insert this in the appropriate place in the Bylaws,

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That this enlarged Board be activated immediately after the 1958 General Presbyters' meeting, at which time the foregoing duties shall become effective, and the amendment to the aforesaid Paragraph 3 of Section II (a) of Article VIII of our present Bylaws and shall not curtail nor limit the powers of operation of the present foreign missions board as they are currently defined.

and

WHEREAS, It has been recommended to the General Presbytery and Executive Presbytery that they establish a school of orientation for the prospective missionaries,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we amend Article X, Section 1, Par. 1, so that the last line will read "...and general ministerial and missionary training."

and

WHEREAS, The outreach of the Assemblies of God is resulting in the establishing of national groups of Assemblies of God churches, and whereas these groups of churches, while established through our missionary efforts, are yet self-supporting bodies, and whereas it seems desirable to develop some organizational plan whereby these groups may be more closely integrated into a worldwide fellowship of the Assemblies of God,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Foreign Missions Department be instructed to take such steps as may seem expedient to develop plans for the establishing of an International Assemblies of God Fellowship by which authorized representatives of national Assemblies of God groups may meet together at regular intervals for fellowship and conference in the interests of world evangelism

by the closer co-operation of national Assemblies of God groups.

Respectfully submitted

E. E. Krogstad, Chairman	Geo. H. Carmichael
R. B. Cavaness, Jr.	W. S. Graham
J. B. King	A. S. Stirling
L. W. Stokes	Noel Perkin

The motion to amend Article VIII, Sec. 2 of the By-laws, as proposed in the Committee Report, was adopted.

#### **Constitutional Amendment**

Consideration was given to the proposed amendment to Article IX, Sec. 3 of the Constitution, which had been referred back to the originating committee on the afternoon of August 29, and which was worded as follows:

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, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

The chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee moved, and the motion was seconded that the proposed amendment to Article IX of the Constitution be further amended by striking out the phrase "to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery." The motion carried.

The motion to amend Article IX, Sec. 3 of the Constitution, as amended, was then made and carried.

The motion was then made to adopt the entire report of the Foreign Missions Committee as amended, and the motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Greetings from Congressman Brown**

On a question of privilege, Thomas F. Zimmerman read the following telegram of greeting from the Honorable Charlie Brown, congressman from the 7th District, Missouri, and requested that it be spread on the minutes:

Every good wish for a successful and inspiring convention from the home folks of the Ozarks and your congressman who are proud indeed to be the home of the Assemblies of God. It is a buoyant thought to feel that our Springfield is the fountainhead of such a wonderful part of the Lord's work. Sincere personal regards.

The afternoon meeting was adjourned with prayer at 5:20 o'clock.

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

In keeping with tradition, all business was set aside for a full day devoted to spiritual ministry, fellowship and inspiration. The Memorial Service, followed immediately by

a Communion Service, was presided over by Rev. Ralph M. Riggs, General Superintendent. Rev. Albert M. Alber brought a fitting message from the Word, giving tribute to the memory of those ordained ministers and missionaries who had laid down their armor and entered into rest. The names of 117 ordained ministers and missionaries were read by the General Secretary. The roll of honor was as follows:

#### **Ordained Ministers**

General Council 1955 to General Council 1957

Albach, Louise B., Topcka, Kansas  
Bakker, Mrs. Katherine M., Muskegon, Michigan  
Barnes, Carl W., Tullahoma, Tennessee  
Beaty, Mrs. Harriette F., Covington, Oklahoma  
Berry, Mrs. Maude, Sedalia, Missouri  
Brown, Wilfred A., Springfield, Missouri  
Bullock, Zack W., Panama City, Florida  
Burkhart, George W., Edenton, North Carolina  
Burman, Marie, New York, New York  
Bush, Wm. R., Allen, Alabama  
Callahan, D. C., Sallisaw, Oklahoma  
Coon, Ralph M., Sante Fe, New Mexico  
Cox, Arthur B., Anaheim, California  
Crawford, Mrs. May E., North Bergen, New Jersey  
Daniels, Mrs. C. L., Waynesboro, Mississippi  
Deininger, Mrs. Juanita, Golden City, Missouri  
Eiting, John, Douglas, Arizona  
Ellsworth, Leslie A., Chula Vista, California  
Ewald, Ferdinand, Miami, Florida  
Farris, Tolbert S., Joplin, Missouri  
Findley, Harry, Fremont, Ohio  
Fleming, Irving S., Port Huron, Michigan  
Gaston, W. T., Santa Cruz, California  
Gilbert, Rosey L. (Mrs. W. C.), Cherokee, Oklahoma  
Gould, George E., Greenville, South Carolina  
Gouloff, Alexis A., San Francisco, California  
Grafstrom, Edward T., Glendale, Oregon  
Gunn, William R., Wrangell, Alaska  
Hanson, Arthur J., Enid, Oklahoma  
Harkins, W. Cairl, Justin, Texas  
Harris, Walter H., Long Beach, California  
Henderson, Mrs. Grace P., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Henry, Mrs. Louise E., Milton-Freewater, Oregon  
Hurston, William W., Brooks, Georgia  
Jackson, Mrs. Juanita, Los Angeles, California  
Jamison, Thomas E., Gulfport, Mississippi  
Jankow, William, Brooklyn, New York  
Jeffrey, Ralph M., Hagerstown, Maryland  
Jennings, Thomas W., Linwood, Pennsylvania

Johnson, Ernest E., Valliant, Oklahoma  
 Johnson, James O., St. Louis, Missouri  
 Johnston, Mrs. Cora Fannin, West Prestonsburg, Kentucky  
 Jolley, Mr. Dorris W., Crowley, Louisiana  
 Jordan, George H., Green Lane, Pennsylvania  
 Justus, Thomas R., Canon City, Colorado  
 Kaufman, Wesley G., Santa Rosa, California  
 Keith, Archie B., Shreveport, Louisiana  
 Klassen, George C., Fort Collins, Colorado  
 Kline, Jesse R., Miami, Florida  
 Lake, Clayton A., Kinwood, Texas  
 Launius, Zechariah J., Calion, Arkansas  
 Laws, Hubert B., Malvern, Arkansas  
 Leigh, David, Hawthorne, New Jersey  
 Luce, Miss Alice E., Los Angeles, California  
 McCuiston, Andrew J., Alto, Texas  
 McKinley, Joseph L., Greggton, Texas  
 McKnight, Willie J., Huntington Park, California  
 McLaughlin, Emmet M., Missoula, Montana  
 Mabry, Oscar L., Denver, Colorado  
 Malvaney, William J., Hartline, Washington  
 Martindale, Max W., Palo Alto, California  
 Mason, Joseph P., Fayetteville, Arkansas  
 Miller, Edward A., Devils Lake, North Dakota  
 Miller, Wilborn, G., Hamlin, Texas  
 Mitchell, Forest A., Bloomington, Illinois  
 Moore, Barney S. F., San Bernardino, California  
 Morgan, James C., Ellsinore, Missouri  
 Munger, William R., Silvertown, Oregon  
 Nelson, C. W., Shubuta, Mississippi  
 Norman, William T., Charlottesville, Virginia  
 Oliver, Walter O., Osborne, Kansas  
 Olson, Clarence G., Clarkston, Washington  
 Olson, Mrs. Daisy P., Chicago, Illinois  
 Olson, Mrs. Velma L., Garibaldi, Oregon  
 Payne, Joseph, West Hartford, Connecticut  
 Peck, Mrs. Mina L. M., San Diego, California  
 Peterson, Albert E., National Mine, Michigan  
 Price, John L., Indianapolis, Indiana  
 Quackenbush, Mrs. Emma U., Constantine, Michigan  
 Ramey, Edgar A., Houston, Texas  
 Roark, William F., Baytown, Texas  
 Roberson, Horace E., Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
 Robinson, John E., Zion, Illinois  
 Sadler, Elmer J., Sacramento, California  
 Sala, Joseph W., Spokane, Washington  
 Sanders, Mrs. Anna, Pinellas Park, Florida  
 Schaeffer, Harry V., Washington, D. C.  
 Scott, Roy E., Perry, Iowa  
 Shaffer, Allen R., Twin Falls, Idaho

Shepherd, George E., Trenton, Missouri  
 Shires, Thomas F., Houston, Texas  
 Shonstrom, Mrs. Edith M., Huntington Park, California  
 Slavens, Edward L., North Sacramento, California  
 Smart, Robert O., Liberty, Texas  
 Snyder, John C., Chico, California  
 Snyder, Samuel F., Carter, Oklahoma  
 Spencer, Mrs. Vera Hoar, St. Louis, Missouri  
 Stark, William G., Newton, Texas  
 Staudt, E. F. M., Deale, Maryland  
 Stoddard, John J., Lake Charles, Louisiana  
 Stokes, Thomas J., Morro Bay, California  
 Thompson, John W., Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
 Thompson, L. Ray, Kansas City, Missouri  
 Tidwell, Otha E., Overton, Texas  
 Todd, Bert L., Bell Gardens, California  
 Varney, William E., Rochester, New York  
 Vernon, Mrs. Amelia E., Los Angeles, California  
 Wadelin, Henry, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
 Wallace, Robert, Old Orchard Beach, Maine  
 Whiteside, William, Bothell, Washington  
 Wood, William E., Racine, Wisconsin  
 Wyatt, David L., Delta, Colorado

#### Missionaries

Chastagner, Emile G., Upper Volta, West Africa  
 Hacker, Miss Hattie, North India  
 Perrault, Jessie (Mrs. Lawrence), Cuba  
 Plymire, Victor G., China

The Foreign Missions Rally on Sunday afternoon, was introduced by a processional led by the members of the Foreign Missions Board, the headquarters missionary staff, award winners, and others. One hundred and eighty missionaries, most of whom were dressed in the costumes of the land in which they ministered, participated in the processional and were seated on the platform. The missionary address was delivered by Willard Cantelon, followed by a consecration service, participated in by hundreds who indicated an eagerness to pray and to give sacrificially to the cause of World Missions. The total offering received amounted to \$21,000 in cash and \$5,000 in short-term pledges.

#### MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 2

At the conclusion of the devotional period, the General Superintendent, Ralph M. Riggs, occupied the chair and called on the secretary for the

**Report of Roster Committee**

Ordained ministers registered to date .....	1,723
Lay delegates .....	403
<hr/>	
Total number of voters .....	2,129
Visitors registered .....	1,488
<hr/>	
Total registration to date .....	3,614

**Election of Fourth Assistant General Superintendent**

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported that 983 ballots were cast for the election of the fourth Assistant General Superintendent, but there was no election due to the fact none of the nominees received a two-thirds vote.—the highest number of votes received was 594.

Ballots were distributed again, and when counted, the chairman reported the following:

Total votes cast.....	795
Required for election .....	530
Chas. W. H. Scott .....	538
Dwight H. McLaughlin .....	177
Howard S. Bush .....	80

Charles W. H. Scott, superintendent of the Michigan District, was then declared elected to the office of Assistant General Superintendent. Brother Scott was then given the privilege of responding to his election. He said he felt humbled by the consciousness of responsibility conferred upon him and asked for the prayers of the brethren as he assumed his new duties.

**Selection of City for Next General Council**

James Hamill of Memphis, Tenn. moved that the next order of business be the report of the Committee which had been appointed to receive the invitations for the holding of the next General Council, and the motion was approved. Kelly Wigfield, Superintendent of the Potomac District, and chairman of the Committee, introduced Lyle B. Spradley, secretary, who read the report. The Committee suggested three sites as possible convention cities, i.e., Memphis, Tenn., Portland, Ore., and San Antonio, Texas.

Richard Bergstrom of New Jersey offered the following motion, which was seconded:

RESOLVED, That this body go on record as recommending to the Executive Presbytery that the next General Council be held in Portland, Oregon.

In the debate which followed, James Hamill requested the privilege of the floor in order to make a speech in behalf of the City of Memphis, and when this was granted, he listed fifteen reasons why he felt it would be advantageous

for the next General Council to be held in Memphis. He concluded his remarks by proposing an amendment to the motion, by striking out the words "Portland, Oregon" and substituting for those words, "Memphis, Tenn." The motion was seconded.

Inasmuch as the motion before the house was to recommend that the next General Council be held in Portland, Oregon, and the privilege had been granted to James Hamill to present the advantages of Memphis, Tenn., the chair ruled, in the spirit of fair play, that Kermit Reneau, Superintendent of the South Texas District be given the privilege of presenting the advantages of the City of San Antonio. Bro. Reneau concluded his remarks by offering a recommendation to the Executive Presbytery that San Antonio, Texas be given favorable consideration.

By common consent, the resolutions before the house were ignored, and the chair asked for a popularity vote by secret ballot, to guide the Executive Presbytery in its decision for the choice of cities for the 1959 General Council. Ballots were then cast, and when counted, the tellers committee brought in the following report:

San Antonio, Texas.....	455
Portland, Oregon.....	306
Memphis, Tenn. ....	234

**Election of General Secretary**

Ballots which had been distributed for the nomination of general secretary and which had been counted by the tellers committee, were reported by the committee to be in the number of 965. The number to elect was declared to be 644. When the ballots were counted, it was found that J. Roswell Flower had been re-elected on the nominating ballot, receiving 780 votes of the 965 votes cast.

**Election of General Treasurer**

The next order of business was declared to be the election of a General Treasurer. It was stated the present incumbent in the office of General Treasurer has declined to serve any longer and therefore the General Presbytery had taken steps to nominate one to succeed him.

At this point, the question was asked as to whether the Resolutions Committee had a resolution to present which would affect the election of a General Treasurer, and Robert L. Brandt, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee was called upon to read the resolution, as follows:

RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 2, d be amended by deletion of the word "one" at the end of line six, and substituting therefore, the words "two or more,"

so that the nomination by the General Presbytery shall not be confined to one person.

It was moved and the motion was seconded that this resolution be adopted. There was considerable debate, a number of amendments were presented and all were defeated. The proposed amendments included a substitution of "one or more" for the words "two or more," and provision that a layman be made eligible to serve in the office of General Treasurer. The motion to amend was tabled and action on the resolution was postponed until the meeting of the afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:15 noon.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON

Douglas G. Scott, Executive Director of the Commission on Chaplains of the National Association of Evangelicals, and an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God, was introduced during the devotional period by Thomas F. Zimmerman, and emphasized the need for spiritual life in the armed services and for seminaries for the training of Assemblies of God chaplains.

The business meeting was opened at 2:15, with Ralph M. Riggs, General Superintendent presiding.

The motion to amend Article II, Section 2, d was taken from the table and debate was resumed and another amendment proposed. The viva voce vote was undecisive and a division of the house was called for. When the vote was counted, the resolution to amend the amendment failed to pass.

The main motion to amend, as proposed by the Resolutions Committee, was voted upon and it prevailed.

Finally, the motion was made that the ruling which had been adopted be applied to future elections, and that the present method of electing a General Treasurer and Missionary Secretary be followed. This motion was amended by motion by substitution, so that the substitute motion was made to read:

RESOLVED, That the slate of names presented to the General Presbytery by the Processing Committee be presented to the General Council in alphabetical order.

This procedure was then approved, and the following list of names was presented for the choice of General Treasurer: Joseph L. Gerhart, Harry M. Myers, Martin B. Netzel, V. H. Ray, Roy H. Wead.

Business was resumed by the reading of resolutions presented by the Resolutions Committee during the time of

casting and counting ballots, and finally the Tellers Committee presented the following report:

The Tellers Committee submits the report that on the first elective ballot for General Treasurer a total of 953 votes were counted. The number necessary for an election is 636. The nominees received support as follows:

Martin B. Netzel .....	550
Roy H. Wead .....	161
Harry M. Myers.....	138
Joseph L. Gerhart .....	19
V. H. Ray .....	1

No election having been declared, ballots were cast the second time. When the votes were counted, the report of the tellers indicated 970 ballots were cast as follows:

Martin B. Netzel .....	771
Roy H. Wead .....	126
Harry M. Myers .....	53
Joseph L. Gerhart .....	19
V. H. Ray .....	1

The number of votes necessary for election was 646, therefore Martin B. Netzel was declared to be elected to the office of General Treasurer.

#### Election of Foreign Missions Secretary

When the election of the Foreign Missions Secretary was under consideration the motion was made that the nomination made by the General Presbytery be placed before this body, but that the privilege be given for the writing in on the ballot of additional names of candidates. The motion was seconded and passed. Ballots were then cast for the election of the Foreign Missions Secretary. Noel Perkin received 924 of the 974 votes and was declared to be elected.

Brother Perkin expressed his appreciation for the kind vote of confidence. He stated that although he had had uncertainty as to whether or not to continue in office, the heart-warming response of the General Presbyters caused him to feel that it would be the will of God for him to consider serving for at least the next two years, and he will do his best to make our Missions Department the best under heaven.

#### Change in Presiding Officer

The General Superintendent relinquished the chair to Thomas F. Zimmerman at 3:45 p.m., requesting the Assistant General Superintendent to preside for the remainder of the afternoon.

#### Ministers' Magazine

R. L. Brandt, chairman of the Resolutions Committee,

presented the following resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and after brief discussion was adopted:

WHEREAS, There are periodicals designed for other departments in the General Council, i.e., The Sunday School Counsellor, C. A. Herald, Team, World Challenge, etc. etc., and

WHEREAS, There is no periodical published for ministerial digest alone, and there is a need in our General Council for a periodical geared to the needs of our ministers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That a monthly or bi-monthly magazine, designed for ministers, be published by the Gospel Publishing House; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the said magazine be so planned as to include pertinent articles of special interest to ministers, information which will prove beneficial in the conduct of his or her work, exchange of ideas from among our constituency, sermon outlines and helps and other items which can be helpful to both pastor and evangelist. The magazine shall have a fair and equitable subscription fee to cover the cost of publication. It shall be restricted, so far as practical, to ministers only. Be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the editorial staff of this magazine shall be set up by the Executive Presbytery, with fully qualified ministers in our various districts being chosen as regular contributing editors.

#### **Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco**

The Resolutions Committee, through its chairman, presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has gone on record as being opposed to the sale and use of alcoholic beverages, and

WHEREAS, Thirteen church organizations representing 23,327,981 members have likewise gone on record as opposing the sale and use of alcoholic beverages,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we as a people disapprove the sale of alcoholic beverages on commercial airlines, and that advertising of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages on radio and television be disapproved, and that the proper agencies be so notified.

The motion was made and seconded that the resolution be adopted. Homer Brooks, a member of the Assemblies of God, and an attorney at law in Washington, D. C., who has served the Assemblies of God most ably in legal mat-

ters, proposed that the resolution be amended to include smoking as well as alcoholic beverages. The motion was seconded and passed. The resolution as amended was then adopted.

Later in the day, the suggestion was made, and approval given by common consent that the words "and use of" be added to the resolution, so that it will read: "That we as a people disapprove the sale and use of alcoholic beverages on commercial airlines."

#### **Assemblies of God Membership**

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee submitted a resolution on the listing of church membership as follows:

WHEREAS, The present listing of our constituents in the United States does not reflect true membership of the Assemblies of God, as stated in a recent publication emanating from Springfield, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That henceforth our total world-wide membership figure be used.

The motion was made and seconded that this resolution be adopted. Noel Perkin commented on the resolution and explained there are some problems involved in reporting the number of total members on some fields, especially Brazil and South Africa, inasmuch as Assemblies of God missionaries are working in close association with missionaries of other societies on those fields, and it would be practically impossible to determine the number which should be considered strictly Assemblies of God.

There was a motion to amend the resolution, which failed to pass. The original motion to adopt this resolution also failed to pass.

#### **Non-resident Executive Presbyters**

In accord with the rule that non-resident Executive Presbyters should be chosen from the four geographical areas of the United States, nominations were made from the floor for presbyters to represent these areas as follows:

##### **NORTHWEST**

D. H. McLaughlin  
N. D. Davidson  
E. E. Krogstad  
Paul Trulin  
G. Raymond Carlson  
Frank J. Lindquist  
Theo. E. Gannon

##### **SOUTHEAST**

Howard S. Bush  
Andrew Stirling  
Lowell Ashbrook  
D. V. Williams  
W. Glen West  
T. H. Spence  
W. G. Hinecker  
James Hamill  
C. C. Crace

### **SOUTHWEST**

L. H. Hauff  
 F. D. Davis  
 Joseph L. Gerhart  
 Geo. W. Hardcastle  
 J. K. Gressett  
 Emil A. Balliet  
 A. A. Wilson  
 Leonard Palmer  
 E. R. Foster  
 H. M. Cadwalder  
 Kermit Reneau  
 Charles E. Blair  
 R. E. Goggin

### **NORTHEAST**

Roy H. Wead  
 R. J. Bergstrom  
 O. L. Harrup  
 A. Newton Chase  
 Joseph R. Flower  
 Bond Bowman  
 Paul J. Emery  
 Thomas R. Brubaker  
 C. W. Hahn  
 J. W. Hunter  
 James D. Menzie  
 Grady L. Fannin  
 W. R. Williamson

Ballots were cast for the election of four non-resident executive presbyters, and while the votes were being counted, business was resumed.

The proposal was made that the Council meet on Monday night in view of the possibility a larger number of delegates might be present on Monday night than on Tuesday. A poll was made of the number planning to remain over until the adjournment of the session, scheduled for Tuesday noon, and the response indicated there will be a sufficient number to do business, therefore the proposal for the night meeting was rejected.

### **The Office of General Treasurer**

Following a brief word of explanation and dedication to the responsibility to which he had been elected, Martin B. Netzel was publicly welcomed to the Executive Presbytery by the General Superintendent, Ralph M. Riggs.

Atwood Foster, the retiring General Treasurer, upon request made from the floor, referred to his call to the office of General Treasurer following the demise of Wilfred A. Brown, and stated his feeling of responsibility for the promotion of the Church Extension Plan, which he could not pursue while serving as general treasurer. A vote of thanks and appreciation for his faithful service during these past two years was given to Brother Foster, by a rising vote, proposed by R. J. Thurmond.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m., to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday.

### **TUESDAY MORNING**

#### **Introduction of Guest**

At the opening of the business meeting, the chair introduced Rev. W. G. Hathaway of the Elim Foursquare

Gospel Alliance of Great Britain, who brought greetings from the fellowship which he represented and expressed warm regard for the Assemblies of God in the U.S.A. The chair requested that he in turn convey the greetings of this Council to the brethren of the Elim Alliance.

### **Election of Non-resident Executive Presbyters**

R. J. Bergstrom, chairman of the Tellers Committee submitted the report of the committee to the effect there was no election on the first ballot. The number of ballots cast were: Northwest 923, Northeast 912, Southwest 919, Southeast 866.

Voting was continued, and when the count was made, the tellers reported the election of three non-resident Executive Presbyters as follows:

Northwest area	Dwight H. McLaughlin
Southwest area	A. A. Wilson
Southeast area	Howard S. Bush

On the third vote, 407 ballots were cast and Roy H. Wead received a substantial vote of 318, which completed the election of non-resident Executive Presbyters.

Each of the elected executives, in turn, expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence and declared their willingness to accept the verdict as the will of the Lord, and their pleasure in being chosen to serve the fellowship.

A rising vote of thanks was extended the Tellers Committee for the excellent manner in which their work was handled.

### **Report of Christ's Ambassadors Committee**

The report of the Christ's Ambassadors Committee was given by its chairman, Rev. Owen C. Carr, who moved its adoption.

The report called attention to a recommendation made by the 1956 District Superintendent's seminar that consideration be given to a revision of the Christ's Ambassadors age span into two groups—13 to 24 and an honorary group, 25 to 35. Consideration has been given to the recommendation by the Christ's Ambassadors Committee with the result the committee recommends that youth of 12 years of age be included in the age span. The committee is therefore, submitting a resolution to the Resolutions Committee for presentation to the General Council to incorporate this recommendation.

The committee also proposed that consideration be given to a dual program, geared to the needs of two age groups, 12 to 24 and 25 to 35; and that the division be made on what seems apparently advisable on the local level. The

committee recommends further that the national Christ's Ambassadors Department supply material for the implementation of this program.

The final recommendation of the Committee pertained to youth group achievement under the plan entitled GOAL. The committee commended those pastors who have integrated GOAL, the new Christ's Ambassadors blue print for youth group achievement into their local Christ's Ambassadors program, and recommended that the pastors who have not done so, incorporate the GOAL as soon as possible.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee was seconded and carried.

The resolutions prepared by the committee were then submitted by the Resolutions Committee as follows:

WHEREAS, The Sunday School represents our only means of contact with those twelve (12) years of age, and the intermediate age of our Sunday School is 12 to 14, and

WHEREAS, The present Christ's Ambassadors age span begins at 13, dividing the interests of this group, and making it difficult to promote a satisfactory program for them, and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown there is a greater development change between the age of 11 and 12 than there is between the age of 12 and 13, and those twelve years of age are already in Junior High School; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Christ's Ambassador age span be established as twelve to thirty-five inclusive, and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Article XIII, Section 5, Par. c of the General Council Bylaws be made to read: "Christ's Ambassadors shall include those twelve through thirty-five," and that Par. c of Section 5 become Par. d.

The motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt this resolution.

The second resolution was read by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee as follows:

WHEREAS, The District Christ's Ambassadors President fills a key position in the planning and promotion of Speed-the-Light in his district, and

WHEREAS, The income of the District Christ's Ambassadors office often suffers when the District Christ's Ambassadors President is engaged in promoting Speed-the-Light, and

WHEREAS, No provision has heretofore been made

whereby his department can be compensated for his time and effort devoted to Speed-the-Light,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That one-fourth of the twenty per cent returned to District Home Missions under World Speed-the-Light be allowed for the administration of the District Christ's Ambassadors office.

The motion was made and seconded to adopt this resolution.

A motion to amend was made but lost. The resolution as presented was then adopted.

#### Report of Home Missions Committee

Rev. C. C. Crace, chairman of the Home Missions Committee read the Committee Report and moved its adoption. The report contained a word of commendation for the Home Missions Department for its special ministries, including work among the Deaf, the Jews, Blind, Foreign Language Groups, American Indians, in Prisons and in the Territory of Alaska.

Attention was also called to the pioneer and church extension work of the past years. Special attention was called to the fact that according to a recent survey there are more than 1,000 new communities with a population of 3,000 or more in the United States today, that have no church of any denomination. In the light of the present challenge, the committee recommended that this General Council go on record as:

1. Reaffirming our goal of one church for every 10,000 people in our population and that this goal be a guide in determining the number of churches we need in larger cities.
2. Urging our Home Missions Department to give special emphasis to the promotion of the Branch Church idea, and that we call upon our established churches to assume the responsibility of starting branch churches in neighboring towns, or the reaching of the unoccupied communities of their own cities.
3. Continuing to provide building plans and other helps for church building programs.
4. Recommending that as many Districts as possible co-operate with the February MISSION U.S.A. Rallies in 1958, and that offerings be received for our National Loan Fund.
5. Requesting our Bible Schools to increase their efforts in the presentation of the challenge of Home Missions, and to continue the preparation of our young people to do pioneer work. This recommendation is made in the light of the knowledge that we

do not have a surplus of ministers as some think, and the greatest need we have is for consecrated workers.

6. Recommending that each district continue its present Home Missions program and that all districts seek to find ways and means of increasing and strengthening their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. Crace, Chairman	
Lowell C. Ashbrook	Russell G. Fulford
Raymond H. Hudson	Joseph L. Gerhart
Victor Trimmer	Ernest Pruett

In the discussion which followed the presentation of the report, the suggestion was made that in the allocation of Home Missions Revolving Fund monies, priority be given to those districts weak in home missions work. G. F. Lewis, Executive Director of the Department, gave the assurance that top priority is now being given to the less evangelized areas, and that the fund is limited strictly to pioneer churches which are not more than two years old.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee prevailed.

#### **Report of Radio Committee**

Rev. Grady L. Fannin, chairman, requested that Rev. Leonard Palmer, secretary of the Committee, read the report which contained a review of the ministry of REVIVALTIME, the Assemblies of God Radio Broadcast, and certain recommendations. The report contained the observation that the Radio Industry classes REVIVALTIME favorably with THE HOUR OF DECISION. The Radio Department was commended for the work being done with a minimum of personnel, which has contributed in considerable measure to the economical operation of the department. The report contained the following recommendations:

1. **Use of the name "Assemblies of God" by our churches.**

It is recommended that in order to secure the fullest benefit from their association with REVIVALTIME all our Assemblies should be denoted "Assemblies of God" rather than by some possibly obscuring title.

2. **Support of REVIVALTIME**

Since only 1,500 of the nearly 8,000 assemblies (or about 17%) contribute regularly to the support of REVIVALTIME, we recommend that more of our churches support our national broadcast, thus assuring its advancing success by more largely broadening the base of participation.

3. **Revivaltime Speakers at District Meetings**

Experience having proved that the best and most consistent support for REVIVALTIME comes from those areas where personal contacts have been had with Radio Department speakers, we, therefore recommend that the services of REVIVALTIME representatives be offered to our District leadership as speakers at Rallies, Fellowship Meetings, Ministers' Institutes, Camp Meetings or District Councils, where the purposes and ministry of REVIVALTIME may be explained to our pastors and church leaders.

4. **Additional Broadcast Coverage**

Since we have a great program, and it is hardly half being used, we recommend that as soon as possible the Department seek to release to enough more stations to give full and effective coverage to the broadcast.

We further recommend that where occasion warrants, the broadcast be released on Sunday mornings as well as on Sunday evenings. This will enable a large number of early retiring Christians to also enjoy and support the broadcast.

5. **Publicity Through District Media**

We recommend that the District offices make available space in their respective district news media for occasional articles, items, etc., from the Radio Department.

6. **Recommendations to the Broadcasting Industry**

We recommend that this General Council in session go on record to commend the Industry for sustaining time granted to religious broadcasts, and that we further encourage the making available of commercial time by the Industry for programs of acceptable broadcast quality.

We deplore the statement made by the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches in which they seek to discourage the Industry's sale of time for the release of religious broadcasts, encouraging rather the carrying of selected programs on a sustaining basis, as being inconsistent with the traditional American principle of free enterprise.

7. **Commendation of National Religious Broadcasters**

Finally, we recommend that the National Religious Broadcasters Association be commended for their pronouncement released to the Industry in which the right to buy commercial time for the release of Gospel broadcasts was urgently requested.

The motion was made and seconded to adopt the report, and the report was adopted without debate.

### **Report of Men's Fellowship Committee**

The report of the Men's Fellowship Committee was presented by its chairman, Mr. Doyle Burgess, who read the report and moved its adoption, as follows:

1. Men's Fellowship today presents to the pastors and laymen of our Assemblies of God churches the greatest challenge in our history.
2. Men's Fellowship is serving our constituency in many different capacities. Many new churches are being established and built through Men's Fellowship endeavors. One of the most encouraging signs of our day is this rediscovery of manpower in our local churches.
3. It is the unanimous opinion of this committee that our individual churches will advance in the days ahead in direct proportion to the extent this manpower is utilized in active Christian service.
4. Men's Fellowship has reached a new plateau of development. Today our eyes are turned to new horizons. Because of the tremendous potential afforded by Men's Fellowship for developing our laymen in active Christian service, we would like to encourage our pastors in the organization and promotion of MF groups in local churches.
5. In view of the fact that a large percentage of our organized groups are not yet chartered, we encourage them to apply for their charter as soon as possible, to complete the tie-in with the national office.
6. We express gratitude to our pastors for the wonderful work they have done in promoting Men's Fellowship from its inception and for the work we are sure they are going to do in the future.

Respectfully submitted

Doyle E. Burgess, Chairman    Nick Timko  
Don Mallough                    A. A. Wilson  
T. F. Zimmerman

There was a motion to adopt the report, which was seconded and the motion carried.

### **General Council Membership**

A question was raised as to what constitutes General Council membership, and Frank J. Lindquist moved that this matter be referred to the General Presbytery with instructions that a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the General Council be prepared to reconcile the two statements ap-

pearing in the Preamble to Constitution and Article VII, Membership, the proposed amendment to be submitted to the District Councils for action prior to the time of meeting of the next General Council. The motion was seconded and passed.

It was the ruling of the chair it is required that an official draft of a proposed amendment be submitted in writing to the district offices, which in turn must submit them to the District Councils in session, each one having the opportunity to consider the matter sometime during the year, prior to the meeting of the General Council. It would not be the prerogative of any District Council to withhold submission of a proposed amendment, thus precluding its consideration.

### **Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International**

Rev. R. A. Wilson Jr. made inquiry concerning any understanding which may have been reached with the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. The chair responded with an explanation that representatives of the Executive Committee of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International had visited Springfield for a conference recently, and there had been a frank talk concerning matters of difference. It was understood definite efforts are being made by the officers of the FGBMFI to correct certain features of organization and practice to make the FGBMFI more acceptable to the Assemblies of God. The conference was concluded in a very good spirit of understanding.

### **Report of Sunday School Committee**

At the request of Paul W. Fenton, Chairman, the report of the Sunday School Committee was read by Melvin Brewer, in which commendation was expressed for the accomplishments which have contributed to the outstanding development and growth of our Sunday Schools.

The committee recommended that Article XI be amended by the addition of two sections, to be numbered Section 3 and Section 4, and the chairman of the Committee moved that the amendment be adopted. The motion to amend by addition was seconded and passed. The two sections approved for addition to Article XI are as follows:

Section 3. The Sunday School Counsellor

The Sunday School Counsellor shall be recognized as the official organ of the Sunday School Department.

Section 4. District Organization

a. Provision may be made for a District Sunday School Department in each District of the Assemblies of God. Its purpose shall be (1) to co-ordinate national dis-

trict, sectional and local efforts for Sunday School efficiency, growth and development; (2) to encourage every Sunday School in the district to attain to the National Sunday School Standard; (3) to promote Sunday School efficiency through seminars, tours, conventions, or by any other acceptable means.

b. There shall be a District Sunday School Director. He shall be chosen in keeping with the district constitution and bylaws.

c. There shall be a District Sunday School constitution and bylaws which shall be presented to the District Council for approval.

d. Time shall be given throughout the year for the advancement of all phases of the District and National Sunday School Calendar.

The committee urges that all pastors and workers greatly increase their efforts toward achieving the goals established in the Five-Year Plan—ON TO A MILLION ENROLLMENT BY 1960.

Paul Fenton, Chairman Cecil Parrish  
Melvin Brewer  
Charles W. Denton Leon Miles

The motion was made and seconded that the report of the committee be adopted, and the motion prevailed.

#### **Report of Education Committee**

The report of the Education Committee was presented by Paul Emery, who read the report and moved that it be received. The motion was seconded.

The report called attention to the fact that the reason for the existence of the Assemblies of God as a fellowship is to perpetuate the Pentecostal Testimony. The primary emphasis, therefore, to be kept throughout our education program shall be evangelistic fervor, missionary vision, a Spirit-filled life of deep consecration, and the development of character in Christian principles. The department was commended for its work and the progress that has been made in study, research and development.

The report called attention to the fact that a recent survey of Assemblies of God missionaries revealed that 90.2 per cent of those responding to the survey received part or all of their training in Assemblies of God schools.

The report also called attention to a survey which indicated that one hundred and thirteen (113) students are presently enrolled in seminaries of non-Pentecostal denominations, furthering their education. Other studies indicated that many Assemblies of God high school and college students are plan-

ning to attend seminaries for training in graduate theology, and this knowledge points up a problem in our ranks which may become acute in the not too distant future. The committee urged that we pray for these young people and that we earnestly seek guidance for the future of our own education program.

The report contained a resolution providing for an allocation of 5 per cent of undesignated missionary funds to be provided for the support of our Bible Schools and Colleges.

The motion to accept the report prevailed, but the resolution affecting an appropriation from undesignated missionary funds failed of adoption.

#### **Motion to authorize the Seating of Bible School Presidents on the General Presbytery**

A resolution which had been prepared by the Education Committee affecting the seating of presidents of Bible Schools and Colleges on the General Presbytery was presented by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee. The resolution was debated and the opinion was expressed during the debate that if college presidents are seated on the General Presbytery, many other segments of the church will seek the same privilege. The motion to adopt the resolution failed to carry.

#### **A Foreign Missions Advisory Committee**

The following resolution was presented and the motion was made by E. E. Krogstad that it be adopted. The motion was seconded and adopted without debate, as follows:

WHEREAS, We recognize the advisability of enlisting the services and advice of the lay members of the Assemblies of God, and

WHEREAS, We have been blessed with a great host of fine Christian laymen in our movement,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God appoint six consecrated, Spirit-filled men from among our fellowship, known for their spirituality, good judgment and faithfulness, as an advisory committee to work in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Board in the promotion of World Missions, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this committee be selected from the six sections of the nation designated for the six pastors appointed to the Foreign Missions Board, and that these laymen shall constitute an Advisory Committee to the Foreign Missions Board which shall meet with it at least once annually or as often as deemed necessary

by the Executive Director of the Foreign Missions Department; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the six lay members shall be chosen from churches other than those whose pastors may be selected to serve on the Foreign Missions Board, and that they shall have the endorsement of their respective pastors; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That their terms of office shall be three years and so arranged that one-third of their terms expire annually, and that upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this shall become effective at the 1958 General Presbytery meeting; the details of their responsibilities specified by the Foreign Missions Study Committee and that the aforesaid resolution be edited and made an Article in our Bylaws and inserted therein by the General Secretary in the proper place, as an amendment thereto.

#### **Persecution of Protestants**

A resolution was presented by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, entitled "Persecution of Pentecostals." The motion was made to adopt the resolution and the original motion was then amended by motion to substitute the word "Protestant" for "Pentecostal." The motion to adopt as amended prevailed. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, There is substantial evidence of continued persecution of Protestants in Columbia, South America by the Roman Catholic Church,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the General Council of the Assemblies of God go on record as protesting such inhuman treatment of Protestants or any religious group, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to our Department of State requesting that they use every possible means to stop such persecution.

#### **Airline Clergy Fares**

Roy H. Wead presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution on the subject of special clergy fare rates being granted by the airlines. The original resolution was amended by motion and was finally adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Railroads and bus companies and certain airlines are giving reduced fares to the clergy, and we wish to express our appreciation for their consideration, be it RESOLVED, That we go on record as favoring the extension of this courtesy by all overseas and domestic airlines; and that commendation and appreciation be offered to the airlines which have already offered reduced fares

to the clergy, and that the General Secretary send a letter of commendation to the airlines for their generous action.

#### **Movie Films vs. Preaching**

A resolution designed to discourage the use of Movie Films as a substitute for preaching during Sunday night services, was presented, but failed to receive support and was laid on the table.

#### **Editorial Policy Board**

The following resolution was offered from the floor:

WHEREAS, The "Pentecostal Evangel" is the representative voice of the Assemblies of God across the nation and there is need for more adequate supervision of the articles which are approved for publication, in order to protect the editor from resultant criticism,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That an Editorial Policy Board be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, which shall be empowered to supervise the editorial policy of the "Pentecostal Evangel."

The motion was seconded and adopted.

#### **Emphasis on Holiness**

A resolution to reaffirm our position on Holiness was presented and the motion was made to adopt. The original resolution was amended slightly and then adopted in the following form:

WHEREAS, The District Superintendents of our organization have recommended a renewal of emphasis on Biblical holiness throughout the General Council Fellowship, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our position on Worldliness as stated in Article XXIV, Sec. 6 of the Bylaws.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That in future publications setting forth our beliefs, holiness also be included.

#### **Special Committee Report—Ministers Benefit Association**

Roy H. Wead read the report of the Special Committee on Ministers Benefit Association and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and the report was adopted as follows:

Your committee, after thorough examination and serious investigation of records of our Ministers Benefit Association, wishes to make the following observations and recommendations:

Our new Ministers Benefit Association as now administered under its revised articles of association, is one of the soundest and most practical means of assisting in the

retirement and prolonging of the usefulness of our older ministers that could possibly be offered, as a supplement to social security. We call your attention to some facts that help make this Ministers Benefit Association superior to many other similar plans.

1. MBA is a General Council plan, developed and designed for the assistance of our Assemblies of God ministers.
2. MBA enjoys the benefit of general tax laws affecting pension and insurance plans, together with a recent specific ruling from the Internal Revenue Bureau to the effect the income of the Association is not taxable in any way, regardless of the source of said income.
3. MBA is a most flexible plan, adjustable to most every income and circumstance.
4. All income credited to the account of the member is his always. The member can lose nothing once credited to his account regardless of employment or affiliation.
5. MBA dividends are constant. Regular 3% dividends are declared annually. An additional 3% dividend was declared last year. An additional 3% dividend has been tentatively approved for this (1957) year.
6. MBA is administered by a board of directors consisting of nine experienced General Council and District Council executives, amenable to the Executive Presbytery. The directors serve without remuneration—no salaries or commissions of any kind. All association profits are credited to the members accounts.
7. MBA is an integral part of the General Council. Its funds are protected and controlled by its articles of incorporation and bylaws. All organizational and church loans must be secured by first mortgage and notes must be endorsed by the officers of the District or General Councils. No association funds can be credited or given for any other purpose than the members accounts.
8. A percentage of MBA funds may be used for loans to churches and organizational loans directly advancing the Kingdom of God. Other funds must be invested upon the advice of professional Investment Counsel. In time of emergency, the individual member may secure loans from MBA using his account as security.
9. Present assets of the Association indicate a total of

over \$320,000, plus an additional \$120,000 appreciation on its investments.

10. Under present rate of declared dividends, any member with a salary of \$100 per week, participating in the plan on a minimum basis, would in twenty-five (25) years accumulate \$11,667.73 to his account. The same minister participating in the plan on a maximum basis would accumulate \$27,313.69.

Your committee recommends that these and other pertinent facts be published throughout our constituency and that our churches and ministers be encouraged to participate in the benefits of the association; that among other means of publicity, if possible, an inside cover page of the Adult Teachers Quarterly be made available for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted

Roy H. Wead, Chairman

Joseph L. Gerhart

T. E. Gannon

#### **Sunday Observance**

The following resolution was presented and the motion to adopt was seconded and carried, without debate:

WHEREAS, There is a growing tendency of business to open on Sunday,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we go on record as disapproving the opening of business on Sunday, that is not necessary or vital to the public welfare.

#### **Participation in Federal Civil Defense**

After presentation of the following resolution, Roy Wead, Superintendent of the Indiana District, moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Our Government has set up the Federal Civil Defense Administration as an agency for the protection of human life and property through established forms of government, and

WHEREAS, The plans of the FCDA call for a variety of humanitarian activities to be learned and performed by all citizens, and

WHEREAS, Our religious faith commits us to concern not only for our own lives but also for the life and security of our families, our neighbors, and our nation, and

WHEREAS, We believe that the church cannot be indifferent to the political and historical destiny of the world in which we live, nor withdraw to a pious island and to leave the world unmercifully to its own fate, and

WHEREAS, It is apparent that in the event of a nuclear attack upon our country spiritual leaders and workers will

be in great demand to comfort the wounded, dying, distressed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the General Council of the Assemblies of God

1. Express its appreciation of the humanitarian and welfare concerns of our government and of the eagerness of the government to make way for the Church's distinctive contribution to our survival of freedom.
2. Urge all pastors to give consideration to their responsibilities to the program of public security in their communities.
3. Recommend to all its members to assume their moral responsibilities of citizenship and offer their services to local authorities, and
4. Suggest that local congregations survey their physical facilities, usable for welfare and spiritual services in case of disaster, and offer their use to the local authorities.

The motion was seconded and adopted without debate.

#### Final Report Roster Committee

The General Secretary read the final report of the Roster Committee as follows:

Ordained Ministers registered .....	1,728
Lay delegates .....	403
<hr/>	
Total voting constituency .....	2,131
Visitors registered .....	1,979
<hr/>	
Total registration .....	4,110

#### Report of World Missions Offering

In response to a request from the floor that a report be given of the total amount of contributions for missions in the Sunday afternoon service, Donald G. Foote stated that the figure is approximate, but roughly amounted to

Cash contributions, Sunday .....	\$20,700.00
Pledges .....	5,800.00
Reports from districts on WE Day .....	25,000.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$52,000.00

#### Resolutions of Appreciation

The final resolutions were presented by a member of the Resolutions Committee who moved their adoption as follows:

RESOLVED, That we extend a vote of appreciation to Reverend Clarence W. Hahn, Superintendent of the Ohio District Council, the other officers and ministers of the Ohio District, and particularly the local pastors, congregations and committees, for their cordial hospitality extended the 27th session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLVED, That this General Council hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation for the kind and generous hospitality extended by the Honorable Anthony Celebreeze, Mayor of the City of Cleveland, Ohio the local Chamber of Commerce, and especially those who served at the registration and housing booths, the City of Cleveland Police Department; the manager of the Civic Auditorium and his help; the local newspapers and radio and TV stations, the Cleveland Press, Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Cleveland News, Stations WEWS, KYW, and WJW, for the generous publicity given to the convention.

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

The Chair expressed appreciation to the delegates for their great patience and tolerance and the beautiful spirit of co-operation. He also expressed his appreciation and that of the Executive Presbyters for the work of each individual committee. He stated his belief that God has given us one of the best General Councils we have ever had.

The 27th General Council was adjourned at 1:00 p.m., with the singing of the Doxology and prayer of benediction by Charles W. H. Scott, followed by the singing of the hymn, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Respectfully,

J. ROSWELL FLOWER  
General Secretary

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

August 28—September 3, 1957

**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 enduement 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 prosecute its activities through its General and District Councils.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The officers shall consist of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General Superintendents, General Secretary, General

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

## **2. Executive Presbytery.**

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

## **3. General Presbytery.**

The General Presbytery shall be composed of representative men of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective fields. Each District shall have the privilege of representation in the General Presbytery by three members, the District Superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council and who shall take office immediately subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

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

The Foreign fields shall be represented in the General Presbytery by the field secretaries of the Foreign Missions Department and by two others from each of the over-all areas which the field secretaries represent.

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. 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.

## ARTICLE XII. 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.

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 no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The local assembly shall recognize that the District or General Council has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine or conduct. When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the District officary for help. It may appeal from a decision by the District officary to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council when there is a question whether or not the Assembly has received proper help from the District.

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

## ARTICLE XIII. 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 nominated 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 two or more names for each office to be presented to the General

Council in session for election. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election.

### **Section 3. Vacancies.**

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

b. In the event a General Presbyter shall move to another District or shall vacate his office for any other reason, the Presbytery of the District Council shall appoint one to serve as General Presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the District Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

f. To be General Superintendent of all work on the field conducted in behalf of the fellowship, and to encourage Bible and Missionary Conventions throughout the country.

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

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

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

a. To assist the General Superintendent.

b. To serve as Vice-Presidents of the corporation and to preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery in the absence of the General Superintendent.

c. To serve as departmental heads as may be directed by the General Superintendent.

d. The responsibility of office work and field ministry shall be equitably distributed among these men under the direction of the General Superintendent.

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

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

a. The General Secretary shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the General Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. He shall be custodian of the official seal of the Council and shall issue Credentials under the direction of the Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ministers, licentiates and assemblies in the fellowship.

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

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

e. He shall act as Secretary of the Credentials Committee

and shall be considered as ex officio member of all other committees.

#### **Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer.**

- a. To be custodian of all General Council funds.
- b. He shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, conducting the work of his office according to accepted business methods.
- c. He shall give a report from time to time as may be requested by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.
- d. He shall give bond to the amount of \$50,000. The treasurer's books shall be audited annually by competent auditors.
- e. He shall perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as may be directed by the Council or the Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 5. Duties of the Foreign Missions Secretary.**

- a. He shall be the Executive Director of the Foreign Missions Department under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery. Under his direction the Department shall perform the following duties and render the following services:
- b. Keep a record of all decisions of the Missionary Committee and of all official acts of the Missions Department.
- c. Conduct all correspondence with prospective missionaries and with those already on the field.
- d. Conduct the missionary columns in the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL from missionary letters and reports.
- e. Represent the General Council in all relationships with governments or authorities where our missionary work is involved.
- f. Direct the missionary activities of the fellowship.
- g. Distribute all missionary funds as directed by the donors by agreement with the Foreign Missions Committee.
- h. Keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.
- i. Acknowledge in the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL all funds received for missionary work.
- j. Act as purchasing agent for missionary supplies.
- k. 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 Presbytery before final action shall be taken.
  - h. The Executive Presbyters shall be empowered to arrange for and announce the meetings of the General Council, with consideration for the interests of the fellowship as a whole. The decision of time and place for such meetings shall rest in their hands.
  - i. The Executive Presbyters shall also at their discretion call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.
  - j. The Executive Presbyters shall make a report to the General Council of their activities in behalf of the fellowship as may be directed.
- #### **Section 7. Duties of the General Presbytery.**
- a. The General Presbytery shall be empowered to act in all matters pertaining to foreign missionary and ministerial relationships, and all matters which pertain to the proper functioning of departments and institutions in the fellowship. It shall constitute an advisory body to the Executive Presbytery. All decisions pertaining to constitutional order or fun-

damental 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 Officer.

### **Section 9. Ministerial Relations.**

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

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

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

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

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

When any of the ministers of the Assemblies of God shall identify themselves, with other organizations granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, their affiliation with this body shall be regarded as having ceased. They shall then be requested to return to the Executive Office of the General Council the credentials which had been issued by that office.

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

a. In the event of the announced desire of a minister to withdraw from our fellowship, before action shall have been taken in the matter by the Credentials Committee or the Executive Presbyters, due investigation shall be made as to

the standing of the minister in the District of his affiliation. His request shall be granted, provided he is found in good standing in his home District. In case the evidence gathered shall warrant contrary action, then the minister shall be advised of the finding of the Credentials Committee, and shall be dropped from the fellowship. In the event the minister asks for a trial, the regular provisions made for trials shall be followed in the disposing of the case, and upon conviction, his name shall be published as "dropped" instead of "withdrawn." All information pertaining to the minister, so gathered, shall be preserved in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee for future reference.

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

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

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

Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who are affiliated with us who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the estimation of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. It is obvious that the Credentials Committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them to the headquarters office for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend that the headquarters office recall the credentials. General inefficiency in the ministry, a failure or inability to correctly represent our Pentecostal testimony, a record of assembly breaking

instead of making, a contentious, non-cooperative spirit, an assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly, and an arbitrary rejection of District counsel, a declared open change in doctrinal views, a habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause, a marriage in opposition to our constitutional stand on marriage and divorce, etc., may give cause for the action of the Credentials Committee.

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

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

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

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

We disapprove of any General Council minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living. We also warn that any minister of our fellowship who performs such a ceremony, unless he is innocently deceived into doing the same, may be dismissed from the Council.

#### **Section 15. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy.**

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all minis-

ters are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to private members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of an assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural treatment as an offender by the District Officiary or by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship Certificates and may be the basis for their recall.

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

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

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

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

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, after investigation and consideration of all facts by those qualified to act in such cases according to our co-operative

agreements, such decisions shall be by all considered just and final and all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility.

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

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

a. Both the officary of the District Council and the Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall be recognized as having the right of initiative in the trial of members. Trials shall be granted for willful violation of Council principles, wrong doctrine, or other misconduct. In the event the officary of the District Council shall take the initiative, the trial shall be conducted by said officary in accordance with Council principles. In the event that the Executive Presbytery shall take the initiative and it should appear to them after consultation with the District 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.

## 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 which shall consist of the Executive Director of the department, two Executives Presbyters, four Field Secretaries, and six pastors of proven missionary zeal and accomplishments who shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery from the six established geographical areas of the United States and ratified by the General Presbytery in session.

The term of office of the appointed pastors shall be for three (3) years and so arranged that one-third of the terms expire annually, and that upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

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 Board shall be authorized to appoint secretaries for major office divisions of departmental activities as need may arise.

The Board shall also be authorized to

1. Consistently evaluate missions policies in the light of changing conditions.

2. Devise and publish a code of procedure that will serve to guide the Department and Board in matters of discipline.

3. Establish clear, decisive standards of ethics that shall govern in the relationships between all parties concerned with the missionary program.

4. Declare clearly the position of the Board in matters relating to specific field problems.

5. Sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to Field and Department decisions.

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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. Representatives on the General Presbytery shall be chosen in the following manner:

The Foreign Missions Board shall nominate four (4) missionaries, who will at that time be home on furlough, from each general area represented by the four (4) field secre-

taries of the Foreign Missions Department, who preferably shall have had administrative experience in the Field Fellowship, to serve on the General Presbytery. A ballot shall be provided for each area and sent to all missionaries who shall by their vote select two (2) to represent them on the General Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect, and a report made of the ballots cast.

f. An Advisory Committee consisting of six (6) consecrated Spirit-filled laymen from among our fellowship, known for their spirituality, good judgment and faithfulness, shall be appointed by the General Presbytery. They shall work in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Board in the promotion of World Missions.

They shall be selected from the six sections of the nation, designated for the six pastors appointed to the Foreign Missions Board and shall meet with it at least once annually, or as often as deemed necessary by the Executive Director of the Foreign Missions Department.

They shall be chosen from churches other than those whose pastors may be selected to serve on the Foreign Missions Board. They shall have the endorsement of their respective pastors, and their terms of office shall be for three years and so arranged that one-third of their terms expire annually, and that upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

### **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. (See Article XXI, World Missions Plan)

b. Offerings designated for office expense, in keeping with the recommendation that any who do not contribute under the World Missions Plan should designate a portion of their offering for office expense.

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

d. An appropriation of up to 10% of undesignated contributions.

### **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 mis-

sionaries 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, with the exception that up to ten percent of undesignated funds may be used by the Foreign Missions Department for administrative expense. 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, etc.

#### **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, manners 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 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.

## **ARTICLE IX. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

### **Section 1. Authorization and Scope**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the Gospel to the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be a Home Missions Department. The work of this department shall include

- (1) Church Extension
- (2) Ministry among those people in the United States and in the Territory of Alaska who are in need of special ministry by reason of language barriers, physical confinement, handicaps, comparative isolation or religious prejudices
- (3) General supervision of the various foreign language branches that are now or may hereafter be authorized.

### **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 Home Missions who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the Home Missions Department.

c. The Home Missions 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 Home Missions Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

e. National representatives to serve in specific areas of Home Missions work may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery as it becomes advisable and practical.

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

### **Section 3. Church Extension Division**

a. The Church Extension Division of the Home Missions Department shall function in co-operation with the various districts in helping and encouraging pioneer pastors and established churches to enter new fields.

b. Practical aid shall be provided through:

- (1) Maintaining Revolving Loan Funds.
- (2) Providing Building Plans at a nominal fee.
- (3) Supplying the pioneer pastor with literature for distribution and other helps.

c. The Division shall constantly seek to develop and promote the Church Extension Program by offering new and practical helps whenever possible.

### **Section 4. Special Ministries Division**

a. The Special Ministries Division shall function in co-operation with the various districts.

b. The work of this Division shall include ministry to the Jews, the American Indians, the deaf, the blind, prisoners, the population of Alaska, and the foreign language groups of the United States.

c. Home missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Department with the approval of his or her home District and the District in which the missionary will be working. These appointments are subject to renewal annually.

d. All appointed home missionaries shall be expected to work in accord with the policies of the department as set forth in the Home Missionary manual.

### **Section 5. Finances**

a. The Department shall be financed by World Missions

offerings, gifts, contributions, and such funds as may be assigned for this purpose.

b. Where missionary support is necessary, home missionaries shall be expected to obtain sufficient pledged support before entering their field of ministry.

c. Missionary credit will be given for funds given to appointed home missionaries and to home missionary projects approved by the District and Home Missions Department.

#### **Section 6. Branches**

The foreign language groups and branches shall operate under the general supervision of the Home Missions Department. They shall be allowed that independence of operation which is accorded District Councils within the framework of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws. In order to promote a spirit of fellowship between them, the Branch officials and the Home Missions Department shall 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 and missionary 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 Depart-

ment 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 Purpose.**

There shall be a Sunday School Department of the General Council which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday Schools and other church schools of a non-academic nature throughout the fellowship.

The 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 Vaca-

tion Bible Schools and other educational activities of the local church.

### **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 the Director of the Department.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Secretary of the Sunday School Department who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the Sunday School Department.

c. The Sunday School Department 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 Sunday School Department Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

### **Section 3. The Sunday School Counsellor**

The Sunday School Counsellor shall be recognized as the official organ of the Sunday School Department.

### **Section 4. District Organization**

a. Provision shall be made for a District Sunday School Department in each District of the Assemblies of God. The purpose shall be

- (1) To co-ordinate national, district, sectional and local efforts for Sunday School efficiency, growth and development
- (2) To encourage every Sunday School in the District to attain to the National Sunday School Standard
- (3) To promote Sunday School efficiency through seminars, tours, conventions, or by any other acceptable means.

b. There may be a District Sunday School Director. He shall be chosen in keeping with the District Constitution and Bylaws.

c. There may be a District Constitution and Bylaws which shall be presented to the District Council for approval.

d. Time may be given throughout the year for the ad-

vancement of all phases of the District and National Sunday School Calendar.

## **ARTICLE XII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATIONS**

### **Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.**

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

a. The management and operation of the Gospel Publishing House with its distributing facilities.

b. 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.

### **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 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.

### **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 publica-

tions, 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.

#### CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS DEPARTMENT

##### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

a. There shall be a Young People's Department to be 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.

b. 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.

c. 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 2. Government and Organization.

a. 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 Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Secretary of the Christ's Ambassadors Department who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the Department.

c. The Executive Director and the Secretary with four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery subject to the

approval of the General Presbytery, shall constitute the National Christ's Ambassadors Committee. At least three members of the above committee shall be appointed from the field at large.

d. The National Christ's Ambassadors Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

##### Section 3. Official Organ

The official organ of the department shall be THE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS HERALD.

##### Section 4. 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. The age limit for presidents shall be through the 38th year.

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. Membership in the Christ's Ambassadors shall include those of twelve years of age through thirty-five.

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

e. The president of the District organization shall be subject to call by the District Presbytery for consultation in matters pertaining to young people.

f. 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 5. Local Organizations.**

a. All local Christ's Ambassadors 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 and Purpose.**

There shall be a Radio Department of the General Council.

A. It shall prepare a national broadcast and 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 talents as shall meet the requirements of the Radio Department.

c. A transcription library shall be provided for our ministers to draw upon for use in 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 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 the Radio Department who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the Department.

c. There shall be a Radio Committee which 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 Radio Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

#### **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 Committee.

### **ARTICLE XV. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

#### **Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.**

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

#### **Section 2. Government and Organization.**

a. The Treasurer of the General Council shall be the Executive Director of the department.

b. The Treasurer together with the Executive Director of each department shall constitute the Finance Committee.

#### **Section 3. 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 and Purpose**

There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall have the responsibility of administration of the Aged Ministers' Assistance Fund, the oversight of Assemblies of God homes for the aged, children's homes, child placement agencies, and the administration of any other benevolent services which may be committed to it.

### **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 the department who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

The Department shall be administered by a Committee

consisting of the Executive Director, secretary and three other members who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery.

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

### **Section 3. Benevolence Funds**

The Department shall be authorized to solicit regular contributions from the ministers and churches of the Assemblies of God. Each church in the fellowship is expected to cooperate by sending two special offerings annually for National Benevolences, or by placing the Department of Benevolences in its monthly budget.

### **Section 4. Aged Ministers' Assistance.**

Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers and missionaries of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following basis:

a. The individual need shall determine eligibility.

b. 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.

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

d. Unqualified endorsement must be given by the District Officer.

### **Section 5. Homes of the Aged and Homes for Children.**

General Council benevolent institutions shall be operated by Boards of Directors appointed by the Benevolence Department Committee; said boards shall be responsible to the Benevolence Department in matters of policy and administration.

### **Section 6. District Council Benevolent Institutions**

District Councils may set up homes for the aged and children's homes and child placement agencies in co-operation with the Department of Benevolences. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by the department.

## ARTICLE XVII

### WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT

#### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

There shall be a Women's Missionary Council Department of the General Council which shall serve as follows:

a. To promote and synchronize the work which may be done by the women of our fellowship with the needs of the Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and Benevolence Departments.

b. To develop 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 Women's Missionary Council; 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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.

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

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

#### 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 the Women's Missionary Council Department who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

c. The Women's Missionary Council Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Secretary, the Director of the Home Missions Department, the Director of the Foreign Missions Department and two others, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery.

d. The Women's Missionary Council Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

## ARTICLE XVIII.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DEPARTMENT

#### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

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 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.

c. 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.

## **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 the Department who shall serve under the Executive Director in the administration of the department.

c. The Men's Fellowship Department Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Secretary, and four others to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery.

d. The Men's Fellowship Department Committee shall serve for a period of one year or until its successors are appointed.

## **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.

## **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, with the exception that one-fourth of the 20% allocated to the District for Home Missions shall be allowed for the administration of the District Christ's Ambassadors office.

## **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 be-

lief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the church, and

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

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

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

#### **Section 8. Improper Use of Tithes.**

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

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

#### **Section 9. Improper Solicitation of Funds.**

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

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

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

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

- (3) Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.
- (4) Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Missions Department.

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

#### ARTICLE 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.

#### INDEX

Aged Ministers' Assistance .....	105
Airline Clergy Fares .....	52
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, Resolution .....	40
Amendments	
Bylaws .....	116
Constitution .....	68
American Bible Society .....	24, 26
Appreciation	
Convention City Officials .....	57
District Officers .....	56, 57
Assistant General Superintendents	
Duties .....	71
Election .....	25, 26, 69
Vacancies .....	70
Benevolences Department	
Committee .....	7
Department .....	104
Report .....	15
Bible Institutes and Colleges .....	94
Bylaws .....	69
Central Bible Institute .....	97
Christ's Ambassadors	
Committee .....	7
Department .....	100
Civil Defense .....	55
Committees	
Credentials .....	74
General Council .....	6, 7, 8
General Council Reports .....	7, 8
Roster .....	6, 23, 56
Standing .....	74
Constitution .....	59
Co-operative Plan .....	19
Correspondence Schools .....	94
Deceased Ministers and Missionaries .....	33-35
District Councils .....	66, 75

Divorce and Remarriage .....	80, 114
Doctrines Disapproved .....	112
Education	
Committee .....	7
Department .....	94
Report .....	50
Elections	
Bylaw .....	69
General Council .....	23-26, 36-39
Evangelism	
Committee .....	7
Department .....	108
Report .....	11, 27
Executive Directors .....	4
Executive Presbytery .....	4
Duties .....	73
Election .....	23-26, 36-39
Executive Reports .....	5
Finance Department .....	103
Foreign Missions	
Committee .....	7
Department .....	84
Report .....	18, 27, 51
Secretary—duties of .....	72
General Council	
Committees .....	6-8
Convention City Invitations .....	23, 36
Financing .....	22
General Presbytery .....	66, 73
General Secretary	
Duties .....	71
Election .....	37
General Superintendent	
Duties .....	70
Election .....	24, 65, 69
General Treasurer	
Duties .....	72
Election .....	65, 69
Gospel Publishing House .....	99
Holiness Emphasis .....	53
Home Missions	
Committee .....	7

Department .....	12, 92
Report .....	11, 45
Institutions	
Children's Home .....	111
Home for Aged .....	104
Inactive Ministers .....	78
Local Assemblies .....	68, 83
Memorial Service .....	32
Men's Fellowship	
Committee .....	8
Department .....	107
Military Service .....	112
Ministers' Benefit Association .....	109
Ministers' Benevolence Fund .....	105
Ministerial Relations .....	8, 78
Ministry	
Credentials, Qualifications, Relationship, Training .....	75
National Children's Home .....	104
Order of Business .....	116
Officers	
Duties .....	4
Elections .....	70
Vacancies .....	69
Official List .....	70
Parliamentary Order .....	78
Pentecostal Evangel .....	69
Persecution of Protestants .....	70
Pinellas Park Home .....	52
Publications Department .....	104
Quorum .....	99
Radio	
Committee .....	116
Department .....	8
Report .....	102
Secretary, Foreign Missions Dept.	
Duties .....	46
Election .....	72
Statement of Fundamental Truths .....	39, 69
Sunday School	
Committee .....	60
Department .....	8
Report .....	97
Report .....	99

Support of Headquarters .....	103
Tellers .....	7
Voting Constituency .....	23, 56, 70, 75
Women's Missionary Council Department .....	106
World Missions Plan .....	111
Young People's Department .....	100