

MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

General Council of the Assemblies of God

THE THIRTY-FIFTH GENERAL COUNCIL

Miami Beach, Florida, August 16-21, 1973

0481-054

MINUTES
of the
Thirty-Fifth
GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri, October 13, 1916; amended September 26, 1919 and September 7, 1965)

Convened at Miami Beach, Florida
August 16-21, 1973
(Printed in the U.S.A.)

PREFACE

The minutes of the Thirty-Fifth General Council with the revised Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God are presented herein.

Those who attended this historic Council will agree that a great deal of business was transacted. In addition the Council was blessed by the anointed preaching of the Word. The deep appreciation of all visitors and delegates goes to those who ministered in both the day and night services. On Thursday night the General Superintendent, Thomas F. Zimmerman, brought an inspiring keynote message on the theme, "God's Call to Action." Other evening speakers were: Charles T. Crabtree, Bernhard Johnson, Jay B. Oaks, and Percy S. Brewster. The able ministry of these dedicated men was of great blessing to the thousands of people who filled the Convention Hall for these inspiring services. Inasmuch as *The Pentecostal Evangel* carries a full report of the evangelistic services, further details are not included in the Council minutes.

Appreciation is also expressed to Brothers Roy Wead, Edgar Bethany, and D. H. McLaughlin for their leadership in the Hour of Prayer on Friday, Saturday, and Monday mornings from 7:45 to 8:45, respectively. Likewise, appreciation is expressed to Mrs. Florence Miller who served as leader in the Child Care Center, also to Children's Evangelists Bob and Beth Davis who directed activities for the children. Youth activities were conducted by the Reverend Norman Correll, Secretary of the Youth Department, and Mrs. Billie Davis who served as local chairman.

In behalf of the Executive Presbytery, appreciation is expressed to all those who served during the General Council, to all ministers, delegates, visitors, and committees who contributed so much to make the Thirty-Fifth General Council one of the outstanding Councils in the history of the Assemblies of God.

Barlett Peterson
General Secretary

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Administrative Offices: 1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802
Telephone 862-2781

Executive Officers

Thos. F. Zimmerman
G. Raymond Carlson

Bartlett Peterson
Raymond H. Hudson

General Superintendent
Assistant General
Superintendent
General Secretary
General Treasurer

The Executive Presbytery

Thos. F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent

Edgar W. Bethany
G. Raymond Carlson
N. D. Davidson
Richard W. Dortch
Joseph R. Flower
James E. Hamill

J. Philip Hogan
Raymond H. Hudson
Paul Lowenberg
D. H. McLaughlin
Bartlett Peterson
Roy H. Wead

MINUTES OF
THE THIRTY-FIFTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT MIAMI BEACH,
FLORIDA
AUGUST 16-21, 1973

The Thirty-Fifth General Council convened at the Convention Hall in Miami Beach, Florida, on Thursday afternoon, August 16th at 2 o'clock. The song for the opening devotional preceding the first business session was led by General Council song leader, Reverend Lester G. Binkley. Brother David Thomas served at the piano and Mrs. Don Rippie was at the organ.

Reverend Robert Gatlin, Superintendent of the West Florida District, was asked to read the scripture and lead in prayer. The scripture read was Psalm 133. After prayer a song was presented by a trio from the Southern California College.

Reverend J. Foy Johnson, Superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District, was introduced. He brought greetings in behalf of the Spanish Eastern, West Florida, and Peninsular Florida Districts. He stated that it is a pleasure to welcome the 35th General Council to Florida and to Miami Beach.

Presentation of Headquarters Personnel

Brother Zimmerman presented the National Directors as follows:

1. Leland G. Shultz--Division of Communications
2. Hardy W. Steinberg--Division of Christian Education
3. T. E. Gannon--Division of Home Missions
4. Silas L. Gaither--Division of Church Ministries
5. William G. Eastlake--Division of Publication

Personnel from headquarters seated on the platform were asked to stand. Brother Zimmerman expressed appreciation not only for the members of the staff present, but also for the faithfulness of all those who serve at general headquarters.

General Council Budget

The budget for the expenses of the council was reported as \$20,000. Reverend Arthur Shell, pastor of First Assembly of God in Clearwater, Florida, received the offering.

Fraternal Delegates

Fraternal delegates brought greetings, as follows:

J. L. Sullivent, General Superintendent of the Church of God of the Apostolic Faith

Dr. R. Dennis Heard, Pentecostal Church of God of America
James Montgomery, General Secretary for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Lloyd Post, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
Steven Putorty, Christian Church of North America

Introduction of the Executive Presbytery

The chair introduced the following brethren:

G. Raymond Carlson, Assistant General Superintendent; Bartlett Peterson, General Secretary; J. Philip Hogan, Executive Director of Foreign Missions; Edgar W. Bethany, N. D. Davidson, Richard Dortch, Joseph R. Flower, James E. Hamill, Paul Lowenberg, D. H. McLaughlin, and Roy H. Wead.

Retired executive officer, G. F. Lewis, was recognized. A telegram was read from Brother E. S. Williams, retired general superintendent, and Brother Noel Perkin, retired executive director of Foreign Missions, expressing their inability to be present.

The General Secretary read a telegram of greeting from Bishop J. Floyd Williams, General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the General Secretary be authorized to send appropriate greetings to those who had sent telegrams.

The business session was called to order by General Superintendent, Thomas F. Zimmerman.

Agenda

The chairman called attention to the printed agenda on page 16 of the General Council program.

It was moved and seconded and carried that we accept the proposed agenda as a guide but not as a control.

General Council Committees

The chair recognized the members of the General Council Committees:

Budget

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Edgar W. Bethany, Don Cox, Ernest G. Eskelin, J. Foy Johnson, Ernest J. Kumpe, Clarence E. Lambert, Arthur L. Shell Jr., Robert Spence

Ministerial Relations

W. E. Cummings, chairman; Lowell Ashbrook, Raymond E. Book, Walter Dixon, James Dodd, James C. Ellis, Kenneth M. Freiheit, Leon Miles, W. Howard Roberson

Music

L. B. Larsen, chairman; Cyril McLellan, Lee Shultz, Philip Wannenmacher

Parliamentary

Robert E. Cooley, chairman; O. L. Harrup Sr., Parvin Lee

Resolutions

Aaron Wall, chairman; Jay Alford, Lloyd Christiansen, Robert Gatlin, Jose Giron, Roland Hastie, David T. Holden, Cecil Janway, Haskell Rogers, E. E. Rohde, Thomas Trask, Verne Warner

Roster

Arthur F. Berg, chairman; Dean C. Conklin, R. L. Cornwall, Oliver Dalaba, John L. Franklin, Jack Glass, David Houghton, W. R. Leisy, George Mandel, Clyde C. Miller, Carl E. Perry, Albert Pettit, Raymond W. Schaible, Andrew Teuber, Cecil Wiggins, L. E. Wilkins

Spiritual Life Committee

Richard Dortch, chairman; Charles Denton, David W. Flower, Charles E. Hackett, G. F. Lewis, D. H. McLaughlin, Murray McLees, Kermit Reneau, William N. Sachs, Loren Wooten, Thomas F. Zimmerman.

Tellers

James E. Griggs, chairman; Merle Harris, Clifford L. Hobson, and Derald Musgrove, captains; James F. Allen, Gene Anderson, John A. Anderson, James Andrews, Steve Asmuth, Roberto Avitia, Bill Baker, Samuel Balus, Earl J. Banning, Nester S. Bazan, William J. Behr, John W. Beardsley, David A. Berquist, James D. Biram, James L. Boulware, R. H. Broadhead, Houston Brumit, Zeferino Cabello, Lon Calloway, Owen Carr, Jose Caraballo, H. Ray Colver, Hugh Corey, S. B. Cotton, James Courtney, Robert E. Cousart, Ramon Daniel, Robert Eastlake, Howard F. Fortenberry, J. L. Gallman, William J. Garlit, Dale Harmon, V. Wilson Hickam, Orvil Holden, Virgil Jones, Orval F. Kiddy, R. S. King, Arthur Klaus, Raymond Loven, Eugene Meador, Lonnie Mullen, Charles E. Northcutt, Raymond Phillips, William Register, Clare G. Rose, David T. Scott, E. Glenn Snook, James L. Tate, Paul Tinlin, Norman Tosten, George Walters.

Arrangements

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Thomas F. Zimmerman, Bartlett Peterson

Coordinators

Warren F. McPherson, national; J. Foy Johnson, local

Child Care

Mrs. Florence Miller, chairman; Mrs. Rex Anspaugh, Mrs. Lurowe Eskelin, Mrs. Nola Mosher, Mrs. Hazel Warner

Children's Activities

Warren F. McPherson, national chairman; Bob and Beth Davis, local chairmen; Mrs. Lucille Davidson, Mrs. Geraldine Land, Mrs. James Rentz

Equipment

Warren F. McPherson, national chairman; Loren Triplett, local chairman; Paul Alessi, Charles Eldon, Gladys Myrick

Exhibits and Trucking

Ernie Rifenburg, national chairman; James Rentz, local chairman; John Alessi, Rex Anspaugh, Sam Bailus, Ralph M. Jimenez, J. David Mallory, James Shelly

Hospitality and Housing

Harris Jansen, national chairman; Eddie E. Mosher, local chairman; George Davis, Mary Johnson, David Mendez, George Miller, Richard Palmer, Jack Starbuck, Karl Strader

Publicity

Warren McPherson and Elva J. Hoover, national cochairmen; Ernie Eskelin, local chairman; Allan Mallory, Andres Roman, Juan Romero, David Scott, Verne Warner

Ushers

Tom Sanders and John Ohlin, national cochairmen; M. L. Davidson and Russell Gray, local cochairmen; Phil Brauchler, Paul M. Cardiff, Edwin Cordero, Lance Faylor, Raul Foyo, Weldon Gosnell, William Land, Ralph Leslie, Jessie Morries, Clive Rothert, Selwyn Scott, E. R. Shultz, Pedro Vasquez, Clyde Wasdin

Youth Activities

Norman Correll, national chairman; Billie Davis, local chairman; James Applewhite, Dean Gross, Robert Heiple, David Lee, Paul Tedesco

It was moved, seconded, and carried that these committees be ratified and recorded in the minutes.

Report of the General Superintendent

Reverend G. Raymond Carlson took the chair upon request of Brother Zimmerman. The General Superintendent gave his report which was printed on pages 4,5,6, and 7 of the biennial report booklet.

A motion prevailed to accept this report with grateful thanks to God and thanks to the General Superintendent for this fine report.

The chair was returned to the General Superintendent.

General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary, Bartlett Peterson, presented his report as printed on pages 8 and 9 of the special reports booklet.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that it be received with appreciation to our Brother and thankfulness to God.

General Treasurer's Report

Brother Carlson, acting General Treasurer, presented his report as printed on pages 10,11, and 12 of the biennial report booklet. His report covered the assets, liabilities and funds, receipts, etc.

It was moved and seconded that this report be adopted. The motion carried.

Departmental Reports

The chair called attention to the departmental reports as printed in the special report booklet and stated that in the interest of time these reports would not be read.

It was moved that these reports can be read at the leisure of everyone and that questions would be in order at anytime during the Council. The motion was seconded and carried.

Board of Education

The Assistant General Superintendent, G. Raymond Carlson, gave this report, as follows:

The General Council in session in Kansas City in 1971, by motion duly carried,

"referred for study the proposed paragraph c of Section 2 (Organizational Structure Study Committee report) to the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Education to see whether the provision cannot be more inclusive of the entire educational program, particularly as it affects the limita-

tion of educators on the Board of Education, with the provision that a report be made at the next General Council.

"The motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Article XII as amended was voted upon and declared carried."

By unanimous action of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Education in joint session on August 12, 1972, the following amendment by substitution to Article XII Department of Education, Section 2 Government and Organization, paragraph b, is presented:

The government and work of the Department of Education shall be vested in, and committed to the Board of Education, which shall consist of eighteen members to be constituted as follows: The national director of Christian Education, an executive presbyter, one pastor or district officer not associated with the internal administration of an Assemblies of God college from each of the eight geographical areas of the United States, two laymen and six presidents of endorsed institutions of higher learning.

The national director shall serve on the Board of Education by virtue of office; the executive presbyter shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery; the eight regional members shall be elected by the general presbyters of the respective areas at called meetings during the annual meeting of the General Presbytery; two laymen shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery; and six presidents shall be appointed to the board by the Executive Presbytery on a rotating basis. One year shall lapse after a term is completed before a president is returned to the board.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report be adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the afternoon session be recessed at 4:30, giving ample time for preparation for the evening service, with the business session to reconvene Friday morning at 8:45 a.m. The Doxology was sung. The closing prayer was offered by James Montgomery, General Secretary of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 17

The Friday morning session convened at 8:30 a.m. Brother Joseph R. Flower presided over the devotional period. Brother

Lester Binkley, Tigard, Oregon, led the singing. Cyril Homer, President of South-Eastern Bible College, read Genesis 13:14-18 and led in prayer. Brother Flower made the announcements and expressed appreciation to Mrs. Kathy Strandquist, Willmar, Minnesota, and Mrs. Arthur Shell, for serving at the piano and organ. The Bethanaires presented special music. Richard Dresselhaus, pastor of First Assembly of God, San Diego, California, was the speaker of the morning, with the subject "New Testament Evangelism." His particular theme was "The Changing of a City." He referred to Acts 20:17-27 and Acts 19:10. Brother Edgar Bethany received the offering, and the pianist and organist played "It Is No Secret What God Can Do."

Brother Zimmerman reported a call from Brother Bert Webb in which he was informed Brother and Sister Webb had intended to travel to the General Council; however, Sister Webb had been on the verge of pneumonia and they had not been able to begin their journey. They trusted they would be able to come to the Council before it concluded. Special prayer was requested for Sister Webb.

Prayer was also requested for Brad Roepke, son of Ray Roepke, Personnel Director at general headquarters, who was injured in a motorcycle accident and is unconscious. Prayer was requested for Eugene Bell, Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern District, who had had brain surgery, and a minister of the Oregon District who had a malignant tumor of the brain. Reverend Jack West, Pastor of Calvary Temple in South Bend, Indiana, was requested to lead in prayer.

The chairman requested that in all sessions the executive brethren be seated on the platform; also, all the fraternal delegates were requested to sit on the platform.

The Chairman of the Roster Committee, Arthur Berg, was requested to give a report. As of August 16, 9:00 p.m. there were:

Ordained Ministers	1,926
Delegates	605
Licensed Ministers	1,789
Visitors	195
Total	4,515

A motion was made and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried.

The chairman acknowledged the presence of Evangelist John Bostrom who had had a long siege of physical infirmity.

Non-Preaching Ministries
(Cf. Article VII. Section 2)

The chairman of the committee, Arthur Parsons, was asked to read the report:

"A recent survey by the National Fellowship of District Secretaries reveals that two-thirds of the thirty-eight districts responding did not grant credentials to those engaged in specialized ministries; i.e., Christian education, youth, music, and various other ministries. However, some twelve districts do grant such credentials, recognizing a growing interest in these ministries.

"Your committee feels the time has come, with a good growth of specialized ministries by dedicated people, that we recognize these ministries as being a definite part of our church.

"Whereas, The qualifications for ministry as stated in Article VII, Section 2, of our General Council Bylaws clearly indicate a preaching ministry as qualification for both licensed and ordained ministers; and

"Whereas, There are those who display an evident purpose to devote their lives to ministry in specialized areas other than the preaching ministry; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph b, be amended to read:

"b. Qualifications for license shall be in two categories.

(1) Preaching ministry

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. They shall preach at least twenty times a year, except in case of ill health and infirmity.

Second: (no change indicated)

"(2) Specialized ministry

An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, youth, music, or other full-time ministries. The same spiritual qualifications shall apply as outlined in Article VII, Section 1.

Paragraph c: (no change indicated)

"Also, be it

"Resolved, That Article VII, Section 3, page 118, be amended to read:

"Licenses and Christian Workers Certificates.

Licenses and Christian Workers Certificates shall be granted by District Councils to properly qualified applicants."

A motion prevailed that the report be received. A motion was made and seconded that the report be adopted. It was moved and seconded to amend the report by adding: "And that a committee be appointed to establish such minimum training and experience requirements as are deemed necessary to qualify for the specialized ministries license."

The motion to amend was voted on and declared lost.

The original motion to adopt the report and to amend the bylaws was voted upon and the motion carried.

Official Directory Listing

The report "Official Directory Listing" was also read by committee chairman, Arthur Parsons, and it was moved, seconded, and carried that the report be received. A motion was then made and seconded that the report be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that the report be amended to include licensed ministers, as well as ordained, in this provision. The motion was voted upon and declared lost.

Question was asked as a point of information if this report applies to workers in other areas, such as at headquarters, and if they should be required to preach at least 25 times a year. The answer from the committee chairman was in the affirmative.

It was moved and seconded to amend the report by the addition of the following: "those who are serving in other types of ministry which prevents their preaching at least 25 times a year be excluded from this provision."

Question was asked if this would not also apply to many Bible college teachers who are ordained, but who do not preach 25 times a year. A motion to amend the amendment was then offered to include Bible college professors as well. The motion to amend was seconded.

A substitute motion prevailed to refer the report back to the

committee for further study, with a subsequent report to be made during this General Council, if possible.

Divorce and Remarriage

Joseph R. Flower, Chairman of the Committee on Divorce and Remarriage, read the report at 11:15 a.m.

A motion prevailed to recess at 12:00 noon and to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

"The Doxology" was sung and J. Philip Hogan was asked to dismiss in prayer at 12:05 p.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 17

The afternoon meeting opened with the singing of the chorus, "He Is Lord." Reverend Aaron Wall, Superintendent of the Georgia District, read the scripture and led in prayer. The scripture was taken from Psalm 20:1-9.

Dr. Billy Melvin, Executive Director of the NAE, was introduced. He brought greetings to the General Council and stated that he would like to express appreciation for the very solid support that the NAE receives from the Assemblies of God. He also stated that in the past year \$10,597.87 was received from the national headquarters office and from our Assemblies of God churches. He gave highlights of the activities that are scheduled for the NAE. They are:

1. NAE Sunday. This will be the last Sunday in October.
2. World Day of Prayer, March 1, 1974.
3. 32nd National Convention, Boston, Mass., April 23, 25, 1974.
4. Washington Lay Leader's Meeting. Second week in December, 1974.

The offering was received by Reverend Clarence Lambert, Superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District Council.

Serving at the piano and organ were Mrs. Kathy Strandquist and Mrs. G. W. Hardcastle, respectively.

Reverend Percy Brewster, Executive Council member of Elim churches of Great Britain, was introduced and brought greetings to the General Council. Reverend Trandafir Sandru, pastor and editor of the Pentecostal magazine in Romania, was introduced. He brought greetings from the 120,000 Pentecostal Christians in Romania.

The business session was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman of the Roster Committee, made the following report:

Ordained ministers	2,451
Delegates	865
Voting constituency	3,316
Visitors	2,191
Licensed	244
Total	<hr/> 5,751

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the report of the Roster Committee be accepted.

Divorce and Remarriage Report

The chair recalled that Parts I and II of the Divorce and Remarriage Report were read in the morning session.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that we receive Parts I and II of this committee's report.

A motion was made and seconded that we adopt Part II of the report entitled "A Proposed Application of Biblical Principles to Our Present Problems."

A question was raised relative to procedure. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the chair keep the discussion to theological issues relating to Part II.

An additional question was raised as to procedure for handling this section of the report. A motion was made that we consider Part II seriatim. The motion was seconded and carried. A further motion prevailed that if Part II of the report is accepted, there be a vote by secret ballot to adopt it in toto in its final form.

Brother Flower, chairman of the committee, brought the first area for consideration:

"Part II: A Proposed Application of Biblical Principles to Our Present Problems.

"A. Marriage. 1. Marriage Is a Basic Human Relationship"

It was moved and seconded that II-A-1 be adopted. Questions were raised about the wording, "The Old Testament did permit polygamy, but notes that the first case of polygamy . . ."

A motion prevailed to amend the statement to read: "The Old Testament factually recognized that polygamy did exist . . ."

The motion to adopt II-A-1, as amended, was voted on and declared carried.

II-A-2 was presented: "2. Marriage Involves a Covenant"

It was moved and seconded that A-2 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend A-2 by striking the entire sentence in line 24 which reads, "The Hebrew word used, however, implies no sacrifice, thereby distinguishing it from the word used for the more sacred and binding, 'cut a covenant.'" It was requested that a committee member give an explanation of this sentence. Brother Horton then gave an explanation.

The motion to delete was declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that the sentence on line 24, page 12, be rephrased to read: "The Hebrew word used, however, is distinguished from the word used for the sacrificial offering 'cut a covenant.'"

There was a motion to amend the amendment so that this sentence would read, "The Hebrew word used, is distinguished from the word used for the more sacred and binding, 'cut a covenant.'"

The motion to amend the amendment was declared lost.

The motion to amend was then voted upon and declared lost.

A substitute motion was made that the committee draft a definition of marriage as the conclusion to the total discussion of marriage as given in this report.

The substitute motion was voted upon and declared lost.

The motion to adopt A-2 was then voted upon and declared carried.

II-B-1 was presented as follows: "B. Divorce, 1. God Hates Divorce"

It was moved, seconded, and carried that "B-1," be adopted.

II-B-2 was presented: "2. The Law Restricted Divorce"

A motion to adopt B-2 was seconded and carried.

II-B-3 was presented: "3. Jesus Forbade Divorce as Contrary to God's Will and Word."

It was moved that II-B-3 be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

II-B-4 was presented: "4. Paul Forbids a Christian Couple to Get a Divorce"

It was moved, seconded, and carried that II-B-4 be adopted.

II-B-5 was presented: "5. Paul Forbids Christians to Take

the Initiative in Getting a Divorce When Their Partner Is an Unbeliever."

It was moved and seconded that II-B-5 be adopted. It was moved and seconded to amend II-B-5 by the deletion of the words "getting a divorce" in lines 9 and 20, and substituting therefor in line 9 the word "a separation."

The motion to amend was voted on but declared lost.

A motion prevailed to change the word "when" to "because" in the title of II-B-5.

The motion to adopt II-B-5 as amended was then voted upon and declared carried.

II-B-6 was presented: "6. Jesus Permitted a Christian to Initiate a Divorce When There Was Fornication"

It was moved and seconded that II-B-6 be adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that we set 5:00 as the time to recess the afternoon session.

The Chair stated that additional tellers were needed. He appointed the following to serve: Roy Creamer, Alabama; Elmer Geesy, Arizona; R. A. Thompson, Arkansas; George Mandel, Illinois; Joel Clark, Southern Missouri; James E. Allen, Louisiana; Laverne Snyder, Kentucky; Fred Smolchuck, Michigan; Kenneth Freiheit, Minnesota; J. F. Patton, Mississippi; Earl Goodman, South Dakota; Marvin Ivie, Southern Missouri.

A motion was made and seconded that hereafter on the subject of Divorce and Remarriage that debate be limited to 3 appearances for each speaker on an issue, with each appearance not to exceed 5 minutes.

A motion prevailed to amend by eliminating the number of appearances but that debate be limited to 5 minutes.

The motion to limit debate to 5 minutes for each appearance was seconded and carried.

A privileged motion was made and seconded that the first order of business on Saturday morning be the election of officers. The motion was voted on and declared lost.

The Doxology was sung and the meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. Reverend Trandafir Sandru dismissed in prayer in his native language (Rumanian).

SATURDAY MORNING—August 18

Lester Binkley led the congregation in singing "Stand Up for Jesus" as the Saturday morning service began. Mrs. Wesley

Reynolds, from Belleville, Illinois, was at the piano, and Esther Palmer, evangelist from Montgomery, Alabama, served as organist. Phil Enlow was asked to provide special music.

Brother Zimmerman introduced Colonel Robinson Risner, who had been a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam for 7½ years. Colonel Risner gave a thrilling account of how God answered prayer many times while he was a prisoner. When he had concluded his testimony, the congregation sang "God Is Real, for I Can Feel Him Deep in My Soul."

Brother Matheny, pastor of the church Colonel Risner now attends, was asked to receive the morning offering. An offering was provided by the organist and pianist, who played, "A Shelter in the Time of Storm," and "How Great Thou Art."

Paul Lowenberg was asked to pray God's blessing upon the business session and the chairman declared the meeting in order at 10:13 a.m.

Arthur Berg was asked to bring a report of the Roster Committee:

Ordained Ministers	2,610
Delegates	965
Licensed Ministers	260
Visitors	2,426
Voting	3,579
Total	<u>6,261</u>

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report of the Roster Committee be accepted as a progress report.

The General Secretary, Bartlett Peterson, read telegrams of greeting from William C. Land of Glad Tidings Tabernacle, Key West, Florida and A. S. Bursey, Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God of Newfoundland. A motion was made that the General Secretary be requested to respond to these greetings at an appropriate time. The motion was seconded and carried.

Divorce and Remarriage (Continued)

The business session resumed with discussion of the report on "Divorce and Remarriage." II-B-6, "Jesus Permitted a Christian to Initiate a Divorce When There Was Fornication," was before the house.

A motion to amend was proposed that the sentence, "In this

context fornication would refer to habitual sexual immorality after marriage," would be added at the end of the paragraph, on line 6, page 16. The motion was seconded, but when voted upon was declared lost.

The original motion to adopt II-B- 6 on pages 15 and 16 was voted upon and the motion carried.

Brother James Hamill proposed a procedural motion:

"Inasmuch as there is now before this body exceedingly important legislation for our church; and, inasmuch as there are other extremely important matters to be considered; and, inasmuch as no law, rule, or regulation is any stronger than those charged with the responsibility of administering, enforcing, and implementing such laws, rules and regulations; it is therefore of utmost importance that we as a body, while at full voting strength, elect officers: therefore, be it resolved that we proceed immediately with the elections while continuing with other business now under discussion, and such other matters that may come before this Council." The motion was seconded and carried and it was so ordered.

G. Raymond Carlson, assistant general superintendent, was requested to take the chair. He read from the Constitution and Bylaws, Article IX, Section 1, Executive Officers, paragraph *a*. The tellers were requested to distribute the ballots for the first election which was for the office of general superintendent. Brother Charles W. H. Scott, retired executive officer, led in prayer for God's blessing and guidance in casting ballots.

A motion prevailed that in the event any candidate should receive a two-thirds vote on the nominating ballot it shall constitute an election. The chair was returned to T. F. Zimmerman.

Discussion of the "Divorce and Remarriage" report was resumed. II-C-1. "The Law Accepted the Fact That Divorce Permitted Remarriage" was presented. It was moved and seconded that II-C-1 be adopted. It was moved and seconded that the wording in the heading of II-C-1 be changed to read, "The law accepted the fact that divorce realized the possibility of remarriage." This would delete the word "permitted" and insert the words "realized the possibility of." The motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost. The motion to adopt II-C-1 was voted upon and the motion carried.

A motion was made that II-C-2 be adopted. The motion was seconded. A motion was offered to delete the word "basic" in the heading of II-C-2. The motion to amend by eliminating the word "basic" was voted upon and declared lost.

A procedural motion was made that the chair be instructed to bring into purview also II-C-3 and 4 of the report (from line 22, page 16, through the bottom of page 18). The motion was seconded and carried. A further procedural motion prevailed that II-C-5 (page 19) also be a part of the present discussion.

A motion prevailed that in line with the procedural motion that opened up the perimeters of discussion to include page 19, that the motion to adopt II-C-2 also include C-3,4, and 5. The following were then before the house:

"II-C-2 Jesus in His Basic Teaching Forbids the Remarriage of Divorced Persons;

II-C-3 Matthew 5:32 Adds an Exceptive Clause;

II-C-4 Matthew 19:9 Also Carried This Exceptive Clause;

II-C-5 1 Corinthians 7:15 Also Contains an Exception" (cf. page 16, line 22—page 19 of the report).

Election of General Superintendent

The Tellers Committee announced they had a report and the chair was turned over to G. Raymond Carlson, Assistant General Superintendent. The chair recognized James Griggs, chairman of the Tellers Committee, who read the report:

Total ballots cast	2,073
Necessary to elect	1,382
T. F. Zimmerman received	1,928

Since T. F. Zimmerman received more than the 1,382 needed to elect, Brother Carlson declared him elected to the office of general superintendent for a four-year term. It was requested that Sister Zimmerman be escorted to the platform and Brother and Sister Zimmerman reaffirmed their dedication and commitment to the cause of Christ and to the Assemblies of God.

Brother Dwight H. McLaughlin, a senior member of the Executive Presbytery, was asked to pray God's blessings upon Brother and Sister Zimmerman. Sister Zimmerman was then escorted to the audience by Reverend and Mrs. Paul Tinlin.

Ballots were distributed for the election of an assistant general superintendent.

Discussion of the "Divorce and Remarriage" report resumed while the ballots were being counted. A motion had been made and seconded to adopt II-C-2,3,4, and 5, which was now voted upon and declared carried.

A motion was made to recess at 12:05 p.m. and reconvene at 2:00 p.m. Brother Parvin Lee dismissed in prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 18

As the afternoon session opened, Lester Binkley led in the singing of "Revive Us Again." Mrs. Wesley Reynolds served at the organ. President Philip Crouch of Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, read the scripture and led in prayer. The chairman presented a representative from the American Bible Society, Arthur C. Bordon, who expressed appreciation for the participation of the Assemblies of God in the translating of Scriptures. Pastor Ernie Eskelin received the offering and Mrs. Reynolds played "He Lives" as an offertory.

Elijah Namyela, the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Northern Ghana, was welcomed. He was graduated from the North Ghana Bible School in 1953. Brother Namyela was asked to bring a word of greeting. Brother Zimmerman asked Brother Namyela to convey to the brethren in Ghana our love, esteem, and continuing prayers for souls throughout the country of Ghana. Missionary W. Franklin McCorkle was on the platform and was also introduced.

Reverend Josue Cruz of the Gulf Latin American District, was asked to lead in prayer for the afternoon session.

The General Superintendent declared the business meeting in order at 2:30 p.m.

The chairman of the Roster Committee brought a report:

Ordained Ministers	2,610
Delegates	965
Licensed Ministers	274
Voting	3,719
Visitors	2,676
Total	6525

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the Roster Committee.

Election Assistant General Superintendent

The chairman of the Tellers Committee, James Griggs, was asked to report the results of the nominating ballot for the office of Assistant General Superintendent:

Votes cast	1,561
Needed to elect	1,041
G. Raymond Carlson received	1,338

The Chair, having been advised by the Chairman of the Tellers Committee that on the nominating ballot a candidate received well above the two-thirds vote, declared elected G. Raymond Carlson as Assistant General Superintendent. Brother Carlson expressed his appreciation and thanks for the kindness shown. Mrs. Carlson was asked to stand for an introduction.

The tellers were requested to distribute ballots for the office of General Secretary.

Divorce and Remarriage Report (Continuation)

The last action in the morning session was to adopt II-C-2,3,4, and 5. It was moved and seconded to reconsider some passages which had been adopted. The motion to reconsider was voted upon and declared lost. Question was raised regarding lines 2 and 3 on page 18, "...Protestants have always taken the position..." There was a point of order which stated that this had been adopted, the motion to reconsider had been lost, and it should not continue to be discussed. The house sustained the point of order.

It was moved and seconded that II-C-6 "Remarriage Is a New Contract or Covenant" be adopted. (lines 1-22, page 20)

There was a motion to amend by adding the word "always" between the words "one" and "involves" in the sentence: "It is obvious that the one involves a contract, but the other does not." The motion was seconded and carried.

The motion to adopt II-C-6, as amended, was then voted upon and declared carried.

Election of General Secretary

There was a report from the Tellers Committee on the nominating ballot for the election of a general secretary:

Votes cast	1,750
Needed to elect	1,167
Bartlett Peterson received	1,575

The Chair, having been advised by the Chairman of the Tellers Committee that a candidate did receive above the two-thirds vote, declared that Bartlett Peterson had been elected on the nominating ballot for the office of general secretary.

Sister Peterson was asked to stand to be introduced.

The next office to be voted on was that of general treasurer.

The general secretary was asked to bring a report from the General Presbytery in relationship to this office. Brother Peterson read the provision in the bylaws for nominating a general treasurer and stated: "After due deliberation, the General Presbytery presents as nominees for the office of general treasurer: Raymond H. Hudson and William O. Vickery." The first electoral ballot was then cast.

There was a report of the Tellers Committee on the first electoral ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Ballots cast	2,066
Necessary to elect	1,377
Raymond Hudson received	1,330
William Vickery received	736

The second electoral ballot was distributed since there was no election.

The discussion on the report of "Divorce and Remarriage" was resumed.

II-D-1 "Membership Is Open to All Born-Again Believers" was presented for consideration. (Line 24-page 20, to line 12 on page 21 of the report)

It was moved and seconded that II-D-1 be adopted.

N. D. Davidson requested the privilege of making a procedural motion: "In view of the time element that we are scheduled to close the General Council on Tuesday noon, I move that we dispense with our regular service on Monday morning and begin the business session at 8:00 a.m., allowing 20 minutes for the Reverend George E. Holmes to speak, and that the Monday evening service be one hour in length and that the General Council go into business session at 8:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter." The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made that debate be limited to three minutes and that no speaker be allowed to repeat himself on the various sections for the remainder of the report. A motion to amend was made to alternate with two speakers for the negative and two for the positive side, before the vote is put before the house. The motion to amend was lost. A motion to limit speakers to three minutes was carried.

It was moved and seconded to amend II-D-1 by the addition of the following: "In no case shall a person be accepted for membership in a local assembly while living in a common-law state of matrimony."

Election of General Treasurer

The Tellers Committee chairman was asked to bring a report on the second elective ballot cast for the office of general treasurer:

Ballots cast	2,065
Necessary to elect	1,377
Raymond Hudson received	1,783
William Vickery received	282

The Chair having been advised by the Chairman of the Tellers Committee that on the second electoral ballot we do have an election, declared that Raymond Hudson is the newly elected general treasurer of the Assemblies of God. Brother Hudson was presented. The General Superintendent then welcomed Brother Hudson to the Executive Presbytery and assured him of their loyalty.

A motion prevailed that the business session proceed until the hour of 5:30 p.m.

The Tellers were directed to distribute ballots for the office of Foreign Missions Executive Director. Article II, Section 2, of the Bylaws was read. The General Secretary was asked to present the nomination. He stated: "After prayerful deliberation, the General Presbytery presents J. Philip Hogan as the nominee for the office of Executive Director of Foreign Missions. The voters were directed to cast their ballots.

II-D-1 of the Divorce and Remarriage Report (lines 24-27 on page 20 and lines 1-12 on page 21) was before the house. A motion to amend the amendment by substituting therefor, "However, in no case shall a person be received into membership of a local assembly whose marriage does not conform to the laws of his society," was seconded, but when voted upon was declared lost. The original amendment, "In no case shall a person be accepted into membership while living in a common-law state of matrimony," was voted upon and declared carried. It was moved and seconded to further amend by the insertion of an additional sentence at the conclusion of II-D-1: This would also include "those who, though being Christians, have been the innocent parties to a divorce and subsequent remarriage in accordance with the exceptive clause in Matthew 5:32."

Election Executive Director of Foreign Missions

Tellers Committee Report:

Votes cast	1,418
Needed to elect	945
J. Philip Hogan received	1,380

The chair then declared J. Philip Hogan elected on the first electoral ballot to serve for the coming two-year term as Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions. Sister Hogan was then introduced.

A substitute motion was seconded to eliminate everything in D-1 and retain only the title statement, "Membership is open to all born-again believers." The substitute motion was voted upon and declared lost. The motion then before the house was to amend by the addition of, "This would also include those Christians who have been innocent parties to a divorce and subsequent remarriage in accordance with the exceptive clause in Matthew 5:32." This amendment would be inserted after "who are we to judge?" on line 12, page 21.

The meeting recessed at 5:42 p.m. The Doxology was sung and Brother Raymond Hudson was asked to dismiss in prayer.

SUNDAY-AUGUST 19

Brother G. Raymond Carlson was in charge of the memorial and communion service which began at 9:45 a.m. in the Convention Hall. The congregation was blessed through the anointed singing of the Alcorn Trio from Wichita Falls, Texas, and Roger Wiles of Miami, Florida. Brother N. D. Davidson received the offering and a trombone trio from the ministerial staff of Central Assembly of God in Springfield brought the offertory. Brother Charles W. H. Scott read Revelation 19:16 as the scripture for the service. The speaker of the morning was Bartlett Peterson, General Secretary.

IN MEMORIAM

The General Superintendent expressed a kindred feeling of bereavement in behalf of the Council in recognizing families of departed loved ones. He referred particularly to Martin B. Netzel, General Treasurer, who died on May 20, 1973, and retired Assistant General Superintendent Fred Vogler, who died July 28, 1972. He stated that these brethren had a continuing influence on the world through their dedicated lives of service.

Following the remarks of Brother Zimmerman, the Book of Remembrance was presented. The names of all those who had gone to be with the Lord during the past biennium were read.

The families of the departed loved ones were seated in a special reserved section of the Convention Hall, along with the superannuated ministers.

Honoring ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God who have passed on to their reward, as reported to the General Secretary's office for the period July 15, 1971 to July 15, 1973.

WE'RE COMING TOO

Travelers all, the saints of God,
O'er hill and barren waste we plod;
Homeward bound we'll not complain
Of one who's first with less restrain.

Or if God's chariot should pass,
And bid one travel by first class,
To sooner reach the same abode,
While we come later, usual mode.

He got there first, we all will shout,
We're coming too, let be no doubt.
To one, God speedy transport gave,
And passing left a bec'ning wave."

—Bartlett Peterson

Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:26.

DECEASED ORDAINED MINISTERS

August 19, 1973

Ainsworth, Robert B., Cordell, Oklahoma
Albritton, Columbus R., Pryor, Oklahoma
Alford, Fred T., Davis, California
Allen, S. Frances (Mrs. I. O.), Macon, Georgia
Allquist, Grace, Salem, Oregon
Anderson, Mrs. Ellen V., Colma, California
Arbuckle, Charles M., Potosi, Missouri
Ark, Albert R., Midlothian, Maryland
Arnold, Arthur S., Los Angeles, California
Ashmore, K. James, San Bernardino, California
Austin, Clement H., Bakersfield, California
Baker, James, Clanton, Alabama
Baker, Nora, Griffin, Georgia
Barker, Wayne R., Grandview, Washington

Barnard, Phillip G., Lyons, Indiana
Bartlett, J. D., Spencer, Indiana
Basell, Anna R., Lansing, Michigan
Bates, Perry D., St. James, Missouri
Beare, Ella M., Tulare, California
Beck, Thorvald P., Salinas, California
Bedford, Thomas M., Atlanta, Georgia
Beltran, Manuel D., Yuba City, California
Bently, Tom, Hughes, Arkansas
Bell, Johnnie G., Kaufman, Texas
Bell, L. Basil, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bice, Ed M., Fort Worth, Texas
Blue, Archie D., Garland, Texas
Botello, Jose M., El Cerrito, California
Bottroff, Laurence H., Palm Springs, California
Bowen, Jess L., Russellville, Arkansas
Box, Robert D., Santa Cruz, California
Braddock, James C., Bonifay, Florida
Brotton, Earl, Ordway, Colorado
Brown, Allen J., Turlock, California
Browne, Clifford A., Pennsburg, Pennsylvania
Broyles, Walter P., Mt. Hope, West Virginia
Brubaker, Daniel W., Wrightsville, Pennsylvania
Bryant, Clinton F., St. Louis, Missouri
Bryant, Evie E. (Mrs. R.), Plains, Montana
Bryant, Lydia S. (Mrs. S. S.), Lucknow, India
Buchanan, B. B., Shelbyville, Tennessee
Buchanan, Wesley C., Augusta, Georgia
Burk, Howard M., Bad Axe, Michigan
Bursch, Archie F., Spokane, Washington
Buttram, Blanche (Mrs. J. S.), Tulsa, Oklahoma
Buttram, Jacob S., Tulsa, Oklahoma
Caddy, Richard L., Fresno, California
Cardiff, James A., Orlando, Florida
Carle, Robert G., Hope, Maine
Caves, Donald B., Prineville, Oregon
Chambers, George E., Hot Springs, Arkansas
Christie, Frank D., Buffalo, New York
Clattenburg, Alexander H., Baltimore, Maryland
Clay, Arthur G., Adrian, Michigan
Clements, George W., Barnsdall, Oklahoma
Clonts, Walter D., Wilmington, California
Clow, Grace J. (Mrs.), Olathe, Kansas
Concilio, Margaret (Mrs. P. G.), Palestine, Texas

Cook, Leon C., San Antonio, Florida
 Craighead, Charles S., Meridian, Mississippi
 Creek, Mabel A. (Mrs.), Belleville, Illinois
 Cummings, Robert W., Springfield, Missouri
 Darling, Ernest, Rome, New York
 Daves, Harry G., Baytown, Texas
 Davis, R. L., Houston, Texas
 Delgado, Geronimo, Mexico
 Dennis, Floyd L., Neosho, Missouri
 Deyo, Maude (Mrs. C. A.), Keokuk, Iowa
 DiCicco, James, Syracuse, New York
 Dirks, William, Bay Osos, California
 Doolin, Marvin L., Browning, Illinois
 Duran, Eduardo, Greeley, Colorado
 Eastman, Dean L., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Edward, Clyde M., Bastrop, Louisiana
 Edmondson, Lucille B. (Mrs.), Riverside, California
 Egan, Sylvester F., Warrior, Alabama
 Elorreaga, Nestor J., San Angelo, Texas
 Elswick, John S., Stockdale, Texas
 Erxleben, Frances (Mrs. J. W.), Fresno, California
 Evans, Charles, Eureka, Montana
 Everett, Paul, Irving, Texas
 Eyler, Charles C., Johnstown, Pennsylvania
 Farar, Anna J. (Mrs.), Cleburne, Texas
 Ferguson, Delma F., Riverside, California
 Ferguson, Lester L., Martinez, California
 Finch, Orin T., Arlington, Texas
 Fisher, Walter D. Sr., Trenton, New Jersey
 Flanagan, David F., Columbia, South Carolina
 Fleaser, Sidney, Delta Junction, Arkansas
 Flippin, Josephine (Mrs.), Fort Worth, Texas
 Flokstra, Gerard J. Sr., Springfield, Missouri
 Ford, Madge O. (Mrs.), Glendale, Arizona
 Ford, Rupert E., Denton, Texas
 Fourt, Lavonne K. (Mrs. T. E.), Auburn, California
 Fox, Ethel M., Vancouver, Washington
 Freeman, Cletus E., Hillsboro, Oregon
 French, Ruby E., (Mrs.), Zion, Illinois
 Gammel, Carl E., Republic, Missouri
 Garrard, June S. (Mrs.), Palto Alto, California
 Garrett, Joseph C., St. Francis, Kansas
 Gerhart, Elmer G., Houston, Texas
 Gerla, Robert J., Tacoma, Washington

Gibson, Connie V. (Mrs.), Russellville, Arkansas
 Gilbert, Winston C., Chickasha, Oklahoma
 Gill, Anna M. (Mrs.), Lakeland, Florida
 Gillespie, Harry S., Rockledge, Florida
 Gitchell, James D., Amarillo, Texas
 Godfrey, Thomas C., Spartanburg, South Carolina
 Goldsby, Emma (Mrs E. D.), Santa Rosa, California
 Goslin, Lewis J., Irwin, Pennsylvania
 Gouge, Robert Sr., Maysville, Missouri
 Gould, John R., Clovis, California
 Graves, Edward J., Monroe, Louisiana
 Gregg, James E., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Griswold, Bennie, New Brockton, Alabama
 Hamblen, Henry R., Brooksville, Florida
 Hammack, Marshall M., Bonham, Texas
 Haney, Marion L., Hawthorne, California
 Hardy, Henry H., Sylacauga, Alabama
 Harper, Earl H., Hulett, Wyoming
 Harper, Joseph, Vallejo, California
 Harrison, Irvine J., Garden Grove, California
 Hart, Edward, Seattle, Washington
 Hart, John M., Hugo, Oklahoma
 Hay, Gervis W., Port Arthur, Texas
 Henry, W. Fred, Seattle, Washington
 Henson, Ander, Eugene, Oregon
 Henson, Clyde A., Sacramento, California
 Hicks, C. Milford, Munford, Tennessee
 Hicks, Robert W., Mount Olive, Alabama
 Hirst, Charles D., Canton, Ohio
 Horridge, Emory J., Festus, Missouri
 Horton, Walton W., Sunnymead, California
 Howard, Ezekiel H., Phenix City, Alabama
 Hudak, Victor A., Cleveland, Ohio
 Huff, John J., Lakeland, Florida
 Hull, Ray, Earle, Arkansas
 Hunter, William G., Salinas, California
 Hurst, Wesley R. Sr., Lincoln, Nebraska
 Hurst, William J., Laurel Hill, Florida
 Hutchcroft, Chester C., Moses Lake, Washington
 Illum, Ernest T., Fort Collins, Colorado
 Jackson, Thomas G., Lakeport, California
 Johnson, Gilbert L., Humble, Texas
 Johnston, Sarah C., Hong Kong
 Jones, Burton M., Wewoka, Oklahoma

Jones, Byron D., Ashley, Pennsylvania
 Jones, Emerson, Winter Haven, Florida
 Jones, John B., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Jones, Ralph, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Jones, W. Leslie, Shickshinny, Pennsylvania
 Jordan, Isaac N., Owassa, Alabama
 Justus, Doreen E., Lakeland, Florida
 Kennedy, John H., Santa Cruz, California
 Kennemer, William H., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Kinard, Thomas J., Liberty, Texas
 King, J. T., Alturas, Florida
 Kirkland, Albert L., Kissimmee, Florida
 Koble, Orville W., Phoenix, Arizona
 Kofahl, James C., Alton, Illinois
 LaBruyere, Harold F., San Bernardino, California
 Land, James J., Port Lavaca, Texas
 Larson, Clarence J., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Ledford, Arthur L., Jonesboro, Arkansas
 Lewis, Dolphas G., Nampa, Idaho
 Lindquist, Emil, Omro, Wisconsin
 Livingston, Elizabeth J. (Mrs.), Springfield, Missouri
 Love, Vester F., Lubbock, Texas
 Lowe, Phillip H., Knoxville, Tennessee
 Luker, Joe A., Evergreen, Alabama
 Lumpkin, James E. Sr., Poplarville, Mississippi
 Lummer, Henry H., Davenport, Iowa
 McNulty, Archie, Dardanelle, Arkansas
 McCauley, Roy A., Martinsburg, West Virginia
 McCleskey, William F., Idabel, Oklahoma
 McDonald, Blufford J., Exeter, California
 McDonald, N. R., Hillsboro, Texas
 McKoin, Harry M., Oak Grove, Louisiana
 Manley, Ernest, Orlando, Florida
 Mann, George J., Hameenlinna, Finland
 Marks, Alonzo B., Washington, D.C.
 Martin, Louis L., Marshalltown, Iowa
 Maruscark, Samuel, Stamford, Connecticut
 Matthews, Willie L., Bonifay, Florida
 Mattson, Algot R., Kirkland, Washington
 May, Raymond W., Houston, Texas
 Merian, Fred A., Lakeland, Florida
 Miller, Erma E. (Mrs.), Navarre, Ohio
 Miller, Fred J., Port Orange, Florida
 Millington, Wilfred, Detroit, Michigan

Morningstar, D. C., Benton, Illinois
 Mugford, Walter T., Portland, Oregon
 Murry, H. Jewel, Camden, Arkansas
 Nankivell, Louise, Chicago, Illinois
 Nation, Hubert W., Tallahassee, Florida
 Neighbors, Olen J., Monroe, Louisiana
 Netzel, Martin B., Springfield, Missouri
 Nicolich, John, Stockton, California
 Northrop, Robert P., Grand Junction, Colorado
 Numrick, Fred, Clearwater, Florida
 Nusunginya, Ned, Point Hope, Alaska
 Olson, Kenneth E., Devils Lake, North Dakota
 Paasch, Chester L. Sr., Sacramento, California
 Paino, Lyda (Mrs. T.), Indianapolis, Indiana
 Panos, William, Fort Worth, Texas
 Parker, Horace E., McGehee, Arkansas
 Parks, Mary K. (Mrs.), Davis, West Virginia
 Passetti, Frank S., Maplewood, New Jersey
 Pate, Harlen J., Houston, Texas
 Paul, Robert A., LaSalle, Colorado
 Peterson, Hilding G., East Moline, Illinois
 Pettey, Isa E. (Mrs. O. N.), San Augustine, Texas
 Prescott, Samuel, Tujunga, California
 Rayborn, Olin M., East Gary, Indiana
 Reeves, Floyd G., Cleveland, Texas
 Renick, Glenn A. Sr., Springfield, Missouri
 Rivera, Ramon, Luquillo, Puerto Rico
 Roberson, Jessie B. (Mrs.), Phoenix, Arizona
 Robertson, Ott, Overton, Texas
 Robinson, Charles C., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Rogers, James A., Yuba City, California
 Rolfe, Clara M. (Mrs.), Whittier, California
 Romies LaFayette, Taft, California
 Rose, George L., Everett, Washington
 Rousey, John B., Swifton, Arkansas
 Runyon, C. Otis, Granite City, Illinois
 Satterlund, Niles W., Seattle, Washington
 Savage, Hulet M., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Schmidt, David D., Las Vegas, Nevada
 Schoonmaker, Paul, Landour, India
 Schoonover, Albert J., Tuolumne, California
 Scott, Florence (Mrs.), St. Petersburg, Florida
 Schwilke, Raymond F., Wenatchee, Washington
 Shaffett, Howard I., Great Lakes, Illinois

Shaw, Richard D., Long Beach, California
 Smith, Mazell, West Monroe, Louisiana
 Smith, Perry Z., Blakely, Georgia
 Smyth, Robert G., Seattle, Washington
 Snider, Grover S., Savannah, Georgia
 Snyder, Christine (Mrs.), Lakeland, Florida
 Spradlin, Estella M. (Mrs.), Livermore, California
 Stevens, Willie M., Pensacola, Florida
 Strahl, Elsie L. (Mrs.), Sao Paulo, Brazil
 String, Rufus H., Pleasantville, New Jersey
 Stuart, Ida May (Mrs.), San Gabriel, California
 Stuart, John L., Anacortes, Washington
 Sumrall, W. H., Granite City, Illinois
 Swaim, Sheldon B., Van Buren, Arkansas
 Swearingin, George L., Raymore, Missouri
 Taligatos, Anastacio T., Salem, California
 Taylor, John H., Pensacola, Florida
 Teal, Ellis A., Eufaula, Alabama
 Thurmond, Roy J., San Pablo, California
 Tubbs, John D., Northeast, Maryland
 Turnage, David H., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Turner, Boston W., Boynton Beach, Florida
 Tyler, T. Texas, Springfield, Missouri
 Van Meter, James W., Houston, Texas
 Varnum, Charlie C., Prattville, Alabama
 Vest, Olen C., Portia, Arkansas
 Vogel, Pearl L. (Mrs.), Fort Worth, Texas
 Vogler, Fred, Belleville, Illinois
 Walker, Theodore, Camp Verde, Arizona
 Waller, Thomas S., Waynesboro, Mississippi
 Walters, Robert J., Livingston, Texas
 Watkins, J. C., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Watson, William H., Modesto, California
 Westerman, Tobie E., Malvern, Arkansas
 Whaley, Forrest U., Tampa, Florida
 White, Gayle R., Tacoma, Washington
 Whitfield, Early W., Wewahitchka, Florida
 Wiley, Darrell K., Eau Claire, Wisconsin
 Willhite, James E., Long Beach, California
 Wilson, Birley R., Senath, Missouri
 Wilson, Jake L., Ravan, Virginia
 Winter Earl R., Houston, Texas
 Womack, Robert B., Zephyrhills, Florida

Following the reading of the names, the congregation stood in silent memory of these departed soldiers of the Cross. General Superintendent Thos. F. Zimmerman presided over the communion. He was assisted by members of the Executive and General Presbyteries.

The afternoon service began at two o'clock with a missions rally. Brother James E. Hamill, executive presbyter from the Gulf Area and pastor of the First Assembly of God of Memphis, Tennessee, was in charge of the service. Following the traditional missionary parade, a vocal ensemble from South-Eastern Bible College, brought an inspiring message in song. J. Philip Hogan, Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions, brought an inspiring message on the subject "Calling Our World to Christ." Robert McGlasson, Secretary of the Division of Foreign Missions, read John 4:34-38.

The evening evangelistic service began at 7:15. The Scripture reading was given by Brother D. H. McLaughlin, executive presbyter from the Southwest Area. He read selections from Revelation 22. Special vocal music was provided by Gloria Elliott, Buchanan, Virginia; Hubert Morris, pastor of Trinity Assembly, Charlotte, North Carolina; with a trumpet solo by Kelso Allen of Springfield, Missouri. Brother Jay B. Oaks brought the message of the evening.

MONDAY MORNING—AUGUST 20

Lester Binkley led the congregation in singing as the Monday morning service began. Reverend O. L. Harrup read the scripture and led in prayer.

Brother Hardy Steinberg introduced the speaker of the morning, the Reverend George E. Holmes, Professor at Trinity Bible Institute. Reverend Everett Stenhouse received the offering. The offertory was provided by the Chandler Trio.

Prayer was offered and the business session was called to order by Brother Zimmerman at 8:30 a.m.

Brother Berg was asked to bring a report of the Roster Committee:

Ordained Ministers	2,729
Delegates	1,012
Licensed Ministers	279
Visitors	3,160
Voting	3,741
Total	7,180

It was moved, seconded, and carried that we receive the roster committee report as of Monday morning.

The order for the election of the executive presbyters for the eight geographical areas was read by the chair: Southeast, Gulf, Northeast, Great Lakes, North Central, South Central, Southwest, and Northwest.

The general secretary read the names of the nominees for the Southeast area: Edgar W. Bethany, Charles H. Cookman, Robert J. Gatlin, J. Foy Johnson, and Thomas H. Spence. The first electoral ballot was cast for the election of an executive presbyter for the Southeast area.

Election Executive Presbyter--Southeast Area

The Tellers Committee gave the report on the balloting for executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, as follows:

Total votes cast	950
Needed to elect	630
Edgar W. Bethany received	650

The chair therefore declared Edgar W. Bethany elected upon hearing the report of the Tellers Committee.

Election Executive Presbyter--Gulf Area

The ballots for the Gulf Area were distributed. The General Secretary read the names of the nominees for the Gulf Area, as follows:

James E. Hamill
Fay Hutchinson
N. Cleo Tapp
L. O. Waldon

The tellers reported the results of first elective ballot for the Gulf area:

Total votes cast	1,400
Needed to elect	933
James Hamill received	1,119

Upon the advice of the Chairman of the Tellers Committee, the Chair declared James E. Hamill elected to serve the Gulf Area.

Divorce and Remarriage Report (Continuation)

The motion before the house to amend II-D-1 by the addition of, "This would also include those Christians who have

been innocent parties to a divorce and subsequent remarriage in accordance with the exceptive clause in Matthew 5:32," was voted upon and declared lost.

The motion to adopt II-D-1 as amended was voted upon and declared carried.

II-D-2 was presented: "Administrative Offices are not open to those who are remarried."

It was moved and seconded that we adopt II-D-2.

The Chair recognized Reverend George Wood, who made the following motion. "I would therefore respectfully move to amend the committee's report by inserting this statement on page 21, line 19, 'However, The phrase, husband of one wife, must be understood in the larger context of Scripture as not necessarily excluding persons from the office of bishop, elder, or deacon who are unmarried (1 Corinthians 7:32-35), widowed and remarried (Romans 7:1-3), divorced and remarried prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), divorced and remarried because of the sexual infidelity of a spouse (Matthew 5:31,32), or because of a non-Christian divorcing his or her believing spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15).'" The motion to amend was seconded, but declared lost when voted upon.

A motion prevailed to amend II-D-2 to clarify the term "Administrative Offices" to mean "elders and deacons" wherever it occurs.

The motion to adopt II-D-2 as amended was voted upon and declared carried.

It was moved and seconded that the report be tabled indefinitely. After a vote was received, the motion was declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote. The motion was voted upon and declared lost. It was moved and seconded to adopt Part II as amended en toto. The vote was taken by secret ballot. Brother Zimmerman offered prayer that God would guide the voting and that His will would be done.

The Tellers reported the following results:

Votes cast	1,681
"Yes" votes	1,293
"No" votes	388
Needed to carry	841

The chair ruled that this proposition had carried by a two-thirds majority.

Election Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

The names of the nominees for the Northeast Area were presented by the General Secretary: Samuel DiTrollo, David W. Flower, Joseph R. Flower, John Leardi, Wallace P. Odum, John J. Paproski, and Russell Williams.

The first elective ballot for the Northeast Area was reported as follows:

Votes cast	1,542
Needed to elect	1,028
Joseph Flower received	1,153

Upon the advice of the Chairman of the Tellers Committee, the chair declared Joseph Flower elected executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

Announcements

Brother Zimmerman announced the National Leadership Institute which is to be held this coming December 3-6 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The site for the 36th General Council was announced to be Denver, Colorado, in the Currigan Hall, August 14-19, 1975.

The General Secretary read a telegram of greetings which had been received from Brother A. A. Wilson. It was moved, seconded, and carried that we request the General Secretary to send an appropriate telegram to Brother Wilson.

It was brought to the attention of the chair that Brother Willie T. Millsaps was in attendance at the General Council. Brother Millsaps is one of the brethren who attended the first General Council held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It was moved that special recognition be given to our brother. The chair asked that he be with the brethren on the platform for the evening service.

Divorce and Remarriage, Part III

A procedural motion prevailed that in discussing Part III the speakers shall be limited to 3 minutes on each item, and that the speakers on opposing positions alternate, and that once there are two speakers on each side of an issue, the chair be ordered to call for the vote.

The chairman of the committee presented "Part III: Resolutions Implementing the Proposed Application of Biblical Principles to our Bylaws."

It was moved and seconded that we adopt Part III-1. "Membership."

A substitute motion was offered that after the days of deliberation spent on this that we adopt Part III-1,2,3,4,5, and 6. The substitute motion was seconded, but when voted upon was declared lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend Part III-1 by the addition of a subsection b, which would read, "We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership while living in a 'common-law' state of matrimony."

A substitute motion prevailed to amend Part III-1 by the insertion of the following:

"b. We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in common-law state of matrimony."

Election Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

The names submitted for nominees for the Great Lakes Area as presented by the General Secretary are as follows: Z. R. Cabello Jr., Marshall L. Calloway, Richard W. Dortch, Stanley A. Lyon, Arthur H. Parsons, and Fred Smolchuck.

The first elective ballot for the Great Lakes Area was reported as follows:

Votes cast	1,585
Needed to elect	1,057
Richard W. Dortch received	1,201

Upon advice from the Tellers Committee the chair declared Richard W. Dortch elected executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area.

Election Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

The names submitted for nominees for the North Central Area as presented by the General Secretary are as follows: Lyle E. Curtis, Lester W. Dickinson, W. B. Friend, S. H. Petersen, Herman H. Rohde, Allan L. Ullestad, and Roy H. Wead.

The results of the first elective ballot for the election of an executive presbyter from the North Central Area were reported by the Tellers Committee.

Votes cast	1,598
Needed to elect	1,066
Roy H. Wead received	1,132

Upon the report of the Tellers Committee, the chair declared Roy H. Wead elected executive presbyter from the North Central Area.

Divorce and Remarriage, Part III Continuation

A motion was made and seconded that we amend by adding a sentence to line 14, page 22, which would read, "There are also among Christian people those who are the innocent party in a divorce after conversion that is scripturally allowed." This would become an amendment to Article III, Section 5, paragraph a, of the bylaws. The motion was voted upon and declared lost.

The motion to adopt Part III-1, as amended, was voted upon and declared carried.

The chairman of the committee presented Part III-2: Remarriage.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Part III-2.

A motion was offered to amend by expanding the scripture context on page 23, line 6, to read "(1 Corinthians 7:11,15,27,28, and 39)." The motion was seconded but when voted upon was declared lost.

The motion to adopt Part III-2, was voted upon and declared carried.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Part III-3, "Local Church Leadership."

A motion prevailed to amend III-3 by the deletion of paragraph c-2: "In instances where 'common-law' rather than legal marriages have taken place, we recommend that the extent to which such are given responsibility be determined by the local leadership, with prayerful consideration of all circumstances."

Election Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

The nominees for the South Central Area as presented by the General Secretary are, as follows: E. R. Anderson, Nestor S. Bazan, Robert E. Goggin, Paul E. Lowenberg, Kermit Reneau, Haskell Rogers, Josue Sanchez.

The first elective ballot for the selection of an executive presbyter for the South Central Area was reported, as follows:

Total votes cast	1,725
Needed to elect	1,150
E. R. Anderson	115
Nestor S. Bazan	3
Robert E. Goggin	96
Paul E. Lowenberg	1,035
Kermit Reneau	388
Haskell Rogers	66
Josue Sanchez	22

There being no election, the second elective ballot for the South Central Area was cast. The tellers reported its results as follows:

Total votes cast	1,526
Needed to elect	1,017
Paul E. Lowenberg received	1,280

Upon the advice of the Chairman of the Tellers Committee, the Chair declared Paul Lowenberg elected executive presbyter for the South Central Area.

The nominees for the election of an executive presbyter from the Southwest area as represented by the general secretary are, as follows: W. E. Cummings, Joseph L. Gerhart, Jose Giron, Clarence E. Lambert, Dwight McLaughlin, Woodrow Yasuhara.

The first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Southwest Area was reported as follows:

Total votes cast	1,652
Needed to elect	1,101
W. E. Cummings received	88
Joseph L. Gerhart	278
Jose Giron	24
Clarence E. Lambert	148
Dwight McLaughlin	1,084
Woodrow Yasuhara	30

There being no election, the second elective ballot was cast.

The General Secretary presented the nomination slate for the selection of an executive presbyter from the Northwest Area: E. D. Beard, Robert L. Brandt, N. D. Davidson, Frank N. McAllister, B. P. Wilson.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 with the singing of the Doxology, to reconvene at 2 p.m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 20

The afternoon session began with Lester Binkley leading the singing. Leland Shultz, National Director of the Division of Communications, was asked to read the scripture and lead in prayer. Mrs. Don Cox was at the organ and Mrs. McNabb at the piano. The business session was called to order at 2:08 p.m.

Election Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

James Griggs was asked to bring a report from the Tellers Committee on the second electoral ballot for the selection of an executive presbyter from the Southwest Area:

Votes cast	1,346
Necessary to elect	897
D. H. McLaughlin received	1,131

Dwight H. McLaughlin was therefore declared elected from the Southwest Area.

Election Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

The results of the first elective ballot for the Northwest Area were reported by the Tellers Committee:

Votes cast	1,547
Needed to elect	1,031
N. D. Davidson received	1,157

On the first electoral ballot for executive presbyter for the Northwest Area, N. D. Davidson was declared elected.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg was asked to bring a report from the Roster Committee as of 2:00 p.m.:

Ordained Ministers	2,730
Delegates	1,012
Licensed Ministers	281
Visitors	3,180
Voting	3,742
Total	7,203

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the Roster Committee.

Divorce and Remarriage, Part III Continuation

It was moved and seconded to amend c-1 by eliminating the sentence: "However, we recommend that all other opportunities

for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them," (line 24, page 23, and ending on line 26). A motion was offered to amend by substituting, "That this standard be considered as the ideal for other positions of lay leadership in the local church." The motion was seconded, but when voted upon was declared lost. The motion to amend was voted upon and also declared lost. It was moved and seconded to insert an additional sentence, as follows: "It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but the local assembly shall maintain the prerogative of setting its own standards in accordance with Article XII of the Constitution." The vote was not clear and a division of the house was called. A standing vote indicated the motion had carried.

The motion to adopt Part III-3, Local Church Leadership, as amended, was voted upon and declared carried.

Joseph Flower presented Part III-4, "Performing Marriage Ceremonies," and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded. A motion was made to amend by adding to paragraph "d": "An Assemblies of God minister is required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies in scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony. He may not perform ceremonies for persons, who in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety." The motion to amend carried. An additional motion prevailed to amend by adding a paragraph "e": "We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of the minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies."

A substitute motion was proposed for paragraph d: "Although recognizing the scriptural sufferance of exceptional circumstances in divorce, yet considering it a near impossibility for the minister to determine when these circumstances exist, we disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living." The substitute motion was voted upon and lost. The motion to adopt Part III-4, as amended, was voted upon and declared carried.

Brother Joseph Flower presented Part III-5, "Ministerial Credentials" (page 24, line 27 through line 9 on page 25), and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt was seconded. A substitute motion was offered for Article VII, Section 5, para-

graph b of the Bylaws: "Since divorce and remarriage as it applies to persons in the ministry is a sensitive area, in cases where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living, the district councils may grant a license to preach or a Christian Workers certificate to a person only after the approval of the Executive Presbytery upon the reference of the district credentials committee." The motion was seconded but when voted upon was declared lost.

A motion to amend was proposed to "strike out lines 4 and 5 and begin the sentence with 'we disapprove' in line 6, and continuing, 'of district councils granting credentials to a person who is the husband of more than one wife.'" The vote on the motion to adopt the amendment was lost. A motion prevailed to amend by striking out lines 4 and 5 and the first three words on line 6, on page 25: "Since divorced and remarried persons in the ministry usually cause stumbling, whatever may have been the cause of divorce." The motion carried.

A motion prevailed to insert the word "married" between "a" and "person" at the beginning of line 7, page 25.

The motion to adopt Part III-5, as amended, was voted upon and declared carried.

Joseph Flower presented Part III-6, Annulments for Ministers, line 16, page 25, and moved that it be adopted. This was seconded.

A motion prevailed to amend by adding on line 6, page 26, after the word "divorce" the words "or dissolution."

A vote was taken on the motion to adopt Part III-6, paragraph c, page 26 with the amendment of adding the word "dissolution" and the motion carried.

A privileged motion was made that: "Recognizing marriage and the family as the divinely appointed institution upon which our society is built; and

"Being aware of the massive and complicated assaults being made today upon this institution; and

"Knowing that healthy Christian marriages and families are essential to a vital Christian witness;

"Therefore, be it moved that the executive presbyters be requested to appoint a committee to study and report to it regarding ways, and possible printed materials to:

"1. Help young men and women acquire a Christian understanding of mate selection.

"2. Help married believers establish and maintain wholesome Christian marriage relationships and family life.

"3. Help parents gain the insights necessary to the development of wholesome Christian character.

"And be it further moved that the Executive Presbytery consider commissioning the writing of a book on marriage which would include the Biblical principles contained in the divorce and remarriage report, amplifying and enlarging it with a study of key texts and key words and in any other way deemed advisable, said book to be available for use by pastors in counseling and for general sale as reasonably as possible." The motion carried.

A motion was made to consider a statement on page 23, section 3 which was an addition to paragraph C-2, "This is not binding." Motion to reconsider was voted upon and declared lost.

Following the adoption of the report, the general superintendent made a few remarks, offering a word of counsel to our ministers and delegates:

"Lest anyone should construe the action of the Council as an attempt in our ranks toward liberalization, I would reassure you that I have sensed a feeling to remain true to the Word of God. I have not detected anyone who wanted to depart from the authority of the Word of God. It seems to me there has been an attempt by the General Council to bring about a little greater articulation of some points that I consider to be still valid among us. I do not consider the Assemblies of God has changed its doctrinal position. I have tried to keep myself clear from influencing the decisions of the Council, and I will endeavor to continue to lead us forward within the confines of that which we have all agreed upon together. I have no desire to lead us into a path of compromise. There is room for each to have a personal conscience, but I pray that no one will take liberties beyond what has been decided in counsel together. May all of us exert our energies to make this Movement all that God in His providence wants it to be."

A privileged motion was seconded that this body go on record declaring that it has not changed its doctrinal position by the adoption of the foregoing, but that it declares that we

have defined and clarified the position which we have long held.

A motion prevailed to postpone indefinitely the privileged motion.

A motion was made that thanks be expressed to the members of the study committee on divorce and remarriage. The motion was seconded and carried.

The report of the General Council Committee on Divorce and Remarriage, as amended, follows:

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE, AS AMENDED

Introduction

Members of your committee would like to begin their report by thanking the General Council for the educational opportunities afforded them by this assignment. Individuals from varied backgrounds and points of view have been kind enough to submit to us in writing their thinking concerning divorce and remarriage. Major books on the subject have also been a part of the input. A special note of thanks is due other scholars who have been willing to closely scrutinize the theological aspects of our report and unselfishly contribute to it.

We would also like to commend our fellowship for their reluctance to move from an admittedly rigid position on divorce and remarriage until a comprehensive Biblical position could be framed, fully debated and forthrightly adopted. Although delay has, no doubt, worked increasing hardships on those affected by the inequities of our present position, to have made any move in so sensitive an area until a degree of permanence could be attached to such a move would have resulted in worsening an already admittedly confusing situation. Our fellowship has had difficulty in coping with the complexities of divorce and remarriage from the beginning. This is borne out from a perusal of General Council minutes from 1914 to 1921, where some ambiguity and uncertainty is disclosed about the possibility of remarriage for divorced persons.¹

Compare with this the following quotation from the minutes of the 1921 General Council, on page 22, noting particularly the omission of the above clause in parentheses: "Second, whereas, low standards on marriage and divorce . . . , and that we shall positively disapprove in the future of Christians getting divorce for any cause except for fornication or adultery (Matthew 19:9); and that we 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.)"

It would be presumptuous for this committee to assume to speak for the General Council in such a delicate and complicated area as that sur-

¹ Minutes of the April 2-12, 1914 General Council, paragraph 2 of the resolution on Marriage and Divorces, on page 8: "Second, Whereas low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family and to the cause of Christ, therefore be it recommended that in the future we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching, and that we shall positively disapprove of divorce for any cause except for fornication or adultery (Matthew 19:9) and (if divorced for any other cause, 1 Corinthians 7:15), that we 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.)"

rounding divorce and remarriage. However, we do hope that in the hundreds of hours this committee has studied, discussed and debated these issues among ourselves, the Holy Spirit has helped us to place at the disposal of the General Council the essential strategy and tools which can help our Movement maintain the same kind of spirit and attain the same degree of unanimity in arriving at their decision that we have had in reaching ours.

Our report comes to you in three major parts:

- I. A Statement of Present Problems Related to Divorce and Remarriage
- II. A Proposed Application of Biblical Principles to Our Present Problems
- III. Resolutions Implementing the Proposed Application of Biblical Principles to Our Bylaws

In order to expedite deliberations the committee recommends the following procedure:

1. The reading of Parts I and II.
2. Presentation and disposition of a motion to receive the committee's report.
3. If the previous motion passes, a motion should be presented to to adopt Part II—A Proposed Application of Biblical Principles to Our Present Problems.
 - a. The chairman should be empowered to limit debate to theological issues related to Part II. Anecdotal debate should not be permitted on this proposition.
 - b. The vote should be taken by secret ballot.
4. Resolutions implementing the previous action should be introduced and disposed of seriatim.

- I. A Statement of Present Problems Related to Divorce and Remarriage
- In creation God chose the marriage relationship as the cornerstone of society.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:18-25).

No civilization has ever been known to survive without some form of marriage and family relationships, regardless of how seriously man, in his fallen state, may have distorted them. Historically, the Church, respecting the wisdom of God's Word, has endeavored to help mankind avoid the pains of divorce and maintain the sanctity of marriage. It is important that the action of this Council be such as to be clearly interpreted within this context. Up until now the General Council of the Assemblies of God has never declared a comprehensive theological position on the subject of divorce and remarriage.

The nature of theology is such that when issues become acute, more detailed and careful examination of scriptural data becomes necessary. Thus, the more simplistic approach to the problem of divorce has served

the Assemblies of God well for many years. An example of the way our Fellowship has responded to similar situations in the past which have given rise to theological challenges is the highly elaborated statement on "The Adorable Godhead" found in the 1916 Statement of Fundamental Truths, which reflected the "Jesus Only" crisis.

Today the institution of marriage and the family is undergoing its most severe test in the history of our society. According to recent government statistics there is one divorce granted for every three marriages performed in the United States. Sixty percent of the divorces granted involve children under eighteen years of age.

The complicated factors responsible for this national tragedy are many and varied. Among the most contributory must be the absence of communicating to our young an understanding of a proper mate selection process and an appreciation of differences in the ways of life reflected from masculine and feminine points of view.

Lengthened life-spans are also a part of the picture. (In Jesus' day the male's life expectancy was below thirty years of age.)² Then, "until death do us part" referred to a much briefer span of time than now. Today, with the life expectancies of both American males and females above seventy years of age and rising, there is better than a fifty percent chance that couples who stay married will celebrate their golden wedding anniversaries. Although the added years enhance the joys of marriage for compatible couples, they increase the threat to those who feel trapped in marital misery.

Added to the above factors is the American insistence on finding "happiness" in his marriage which he usually pursues by spending his unprecedented affluence on the accumulation of things and a search for pleasure while his attention to the value of personal relationships is often ignored. Frequently it is only after the "gods of mammon" have failed to satisfy his spiritual hunger and thirst that a person discovers the deep gratification of "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost," that inner realm which Christ has provided for man.

Increasing numbers of people finding Christ in our churches are forced to cope with complications rooted in the problems of divorce and remarriage which occurred prior to their conversion. Among 1,650 responses to a recent survey of ministers in our constituency, approximately 40% indicated divorce as a pressing pastoral problem. This growing segment of our fellowship affected by such unfortunate circumstances, the vastly different ways they are regarded by local congregations within our fellowship and the increasing mobility of our church populations have resulted in problems of sufficient multiplicity and magnitude to require considerate and decisive action by this Council.

In attempting the difficult task of defining a position on such a delicate subject, it might be helpful to consider some basic but extremely important questions.

What Is Marriage? When Does It Begin?

It is easy for people in societies where great emphasis is placed on the importance of legal records to assume that marriage is defined by the names linked together on a license and begins on the date recorded there.

Although the Word of God instructs believers to comply with the laws of their societies, are not a man and woman who are living in a conjugal relationship morally married regardless of whether that relationship is attested to by a license? In fact, there are no licenses to attest to marriages in countries and tribes where little value is placed on social records. Are those marriages any less valid before God because they lack the testimony of licenses?

It is common today to assume that divine recognition of a marriage begins with a legally recognized ceremony. A careful study of Scripture

reveals no mention of a sacred ceremony. However, in both the Old and New Testaments the occasion of a marriage was not treated lightly, and the concept of a Christian ceremony, as well as civil recognition of a marriage, is consistent with the scriptural views of the sacredness of the marriage ceremony.

An Inconsistency in Our Present Position

This fallacious assumption is partially responsible for the awkward position in which our pastors find themselves when they, ethically forbidden to perform marriage ceremonies for believers whose lives, prior to conversion, were scarred by divorce or whose unbelieving partners have initiated divorce since the believers' conversions, must ask some other minister to perform the ceremony, while hoping that such offense does not discourage the parties so affected from future attendance at their local assembly.

Validity of Moral Marriage Without Legal Status

Although societies may record the date couples publicly announce their legal marriages, only God knows when moral marriage takes place. The Scriptures seem to teach that a gradual commitment (not a casual liaison) of a man and a woman to each other, which is publicly acknowledged in a culturally accepted manner and is eventually consummated in sexual intercourse, constitutes being "joined together" in moral marriage. It is the opinion of the committee that such relationships constitute valid marriages, whether or not they are ever legally recorded by man.

Legal and Moral Marriages Not Necessarily Synonymous

It is conceivable therefore, that, prior to conversion, believers with only one legally recorded marriage could have entered into relationships which, in God's sight, constituted moral marriages, but were never made matters of legal record. Such possibilities raise serious questions about the wisdom and validity of using the status of legal marriage prior to conversion as a rule by which to determine the limits of a believer's participation in the life of his church.

A common discrepancy is seen in the way the church has responded to converted drug abusers who, prior to conversion, were, by their own admission, sexually promiscuous. Our church generally allows these believers to choose their mates among our members and to serve in the fellowship without discrimination providing all other conditions have been satisfactorily met. On the other hand, young men and women who, prior to conversion, have suffered divorce as a result of unwisely and premature mate choices, for which they were willing to become ethically and legally responsible, are allowed few, if any, of these privileges. Divorced and remarried persons may be permitted membership in some of our churches, but then they are often stigmatized by not being allowed to hold certain offices or perform certain services.

Although the committee unanimously agrees that the New Testament requires a higher standard of marital morality for the ministry, it finds it extremely difficult to reconcile many such inequities involving our lay members with the mercy and justice of our Lord. After all, He acknowledged that the woman at the well had been married five times, yet found this no hindrance to giving her "living water" nor did He imply that her marital history should discriminate against her newfound community of faith.

Ambiguities of Present Bylaws

The ambiguities of our present Bylaws on the subject further reveal our reluctance to come to grips with the issues involved. Our Bylaws have neither the consistency nor the specificity to adequately serve the fellowship in disposing of questions regarding our clergy, much less our lay members.

² Holme, R. "Development Psychology Today" CRM Books Publications, Delmar, CA., 1971, page 17.

1. May a Divorced Minister Hold Credentials with the Assemblies of God?

An example of this inconsistency may be seen by comparing the wording of Article VII, Section 5b, with that of Article VIII, Section 5e.

Article VII, Section 5b

"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 matrimony³ where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living. (See Article VIII, Section 5e.)"

Article VIII, Section 5e

"We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living."

In Article VII, Section 5b, disapproval of granting credentials to an applicant with a former living spouse seems to be contingent upon whether or not the applicant, at the time, is "living in a state of matrimony" with another spouse, whereas, Article VIII, Section 5e, forbids a person to hold credentials "if either minister or spouse has a former companion living" regardless of whether or not they are presently "living in a state of matrimony."

2. What Is the Role of a Divorced Person in a Local Assembly?

Article VIII, Section 5c, represents the kind of ambiguity which frustrates both ministers and laymen in attempting to determine the role our fellowship has provided in the local assembly for the believer whose life, prior to conversion, has been complicated by divorce and remarriage. It reads,

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

The obvious question is, "What is meant by 'official capacities'?" Does this refer only to elective offices, or does it also include appointed and voluntary positions?

3. What Are the Rights of a Believer Divorced by an Unbelieving Spouse When All Attempts at Reconciliation Have Failed?

Our present Bylaws completely disregard any rights of a believer-whose unbelieving partner may desert the marriage or initiate a divorce. Presently, it is assumed that in such cases the believer remains bound to the unbelieving partner, even though the unbeliever may marry again and have children by a later spouse. Some have consistently, although wrongly, insisted that a remarried person must return to his or her first marriage partner in order to be accepted by our Lord. When moral rather than simply legal partners enter into consideration, only God could anticipate the resulting confusion such compliance would bring.

4. Is a Believer Bound to a Sexually Perverted Spouse?

In addition, our present position forces us to insist that a believer married to a proven homosexual, lesbian or one guilty of other habitual forms of perversion is morally bound to such a person even though such a spouse is unwilling or unable to live in an exclusive conjugal relationship with the believer. Some would allow the believer to separate from such a person, but would insist that in such cases the believer must remain single. This would appear inconsistent with the scriptural principle instituted at creation and reemphasized by our Lord and the apostle Paul (Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 8, 9).

³ Wherever underlinings appear they are provided by the committee for emphasis.

Scriptural Principles Rather Than Sociological Factors Should Determine Our Actions.

In the opinion of the committee, continued periodic patchwork designed to meet the crisis of the moment is no longer an acceptable policy in matters that touch such sensitive areas in the lives of so many people. The time has come when we must try to see where mercy and truth kiss each other. Although the rapid rise of divorce and remarriage in our society and the inadequacy of our present tools for coping with the ramifications of it among our churches may underscore the urgent need for action by this Council, these factors alone must not be allowed to determine the nature of our action. Care should be exercised to underscore the need for hearing what the Bible says on these issues. Neither sociology nor tradition should dictate the answer.

All of our ecclesiastical decisions regarding marriage, annulments, divorce and remarriage should be approached upon the basis of God's Word, and determined by the application of Biblical principles rather than, as at present, by civil law.

In times past when issues have threatened to sow discord and confusion among us, God has been faithful to help us find wise counsel among ourselves. Our Fellowship has always sought to be Bible based. Therefore, it is the unanimous opinion of your committee that this General Council in session should attempt to define and declare a comprehensive theological position on the subject of divorce and remarriage. It is our confident belief that this body is sufficiently mature and scripturally competent to debate such an issue profitably.

II. An Application of Biblical Principles to Our Present Problems.

A. Marriage

1. Marriage Is a Basic Human Relationship.

a. Marriage is God-ordained. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). The very nature of the way God created man to live on the earth indicated He intended man and woman for each other.

Their relationship was to be social as well as physical. "And the LORD GOD said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

The first woman was an help "meet" for the man (his counterpart), taken from his side, bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh, his perfect complement (Genesis 2:23). It is obvious that God meant them to share in both privilege and responsibility.

b. God intended marriage to be a life-long monogamous union. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave (stay joined in love and loyalty) unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). When this is quoted in Matthew 19:5 a Greek word for "cleave" is used which means "to be glued to, be closely bound to."

The Old Testament actually recognized that polygamy did exist. It notes that the first case of polygamy was in Cain's line (Genesis 4:19 and shows that monogamy was still the ideal (Psalm 128:3; Proverbs 5:18; 31:10-29; Ecclesiastes 9:9). Jesus also acknowledges that God's ideal in the beginning was monogamy (Matthew 19:8).

2. Marriage Involves a Covenant.

Marriage is a covenant, a solemn binding agreement made before God and man. "Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and thy wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant" (Malachi 2:14); "Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God" (Proverbs 2:17).

Ezekiel applies the idea of marriage to the relationship between God and Israel. "Vea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becomest mine" (Ezekiel 16:8). From what is said we see that the husband "swore unto" the wife (took an oath, pledged faith) and entered into a solemn covenant not

intended to be broken. The Hebrew word used, however, implies no sacrifice, thereby distinguishing it from the word used for the more sacred and binding "cut a covenant." The love involved is fundamentally the Hebrew "hesed," "a loyal, covenant keeping love," that God shows us even when we are unworthy.

B. Divorce

1. God Hates Divorce.

- a. "Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts; therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously" (Malachi 2:14-16).

This passage shows that divorce is treachery (deceitful unfaithfulness) against your companion. It is also a violent thing coming from a wrong spirit. Worst of all, it hinders the growth of a "holy seed." Broken homes do not tend to produce the healthiest offspring.

- b. "What therefore God hath joined (yoked) together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6). Divorce was not in God's original intention for man. God's purposes in marriage are not helped by breaking the yoke. They can only be carried out as the pair subject themselves to Christ and each other. Such a relationship is beautifully described in Ephesians 5:21-31.

2. The Law Restricted Divorce

The law recognized the fact that divorces were taking place in Israel, as were many other practices common in the ancient world. In giving Israel the Law, God accepted people where they were, put restrictions on their wrong practices, and tried to direct them.

In their confrontation with Jesus on the question of divorce the Pharisees were obviously in error when they said that Moses commanded a man to give a certificate of divorce when putting his wife away (divorcing her). Jesus indicated that Moses only "suffered" or permitted them to do so, and then, not for "every cause" as was commonly practiced at that time (Matthew 19:7,8).

This is borne out in Deuteronomy 24:1-4. The Hebrew Moses used there is a simple sequence that does not command divorce. He just recognizes that men were divorcing their wives. The passage literally says that when a man divorces his wife "because he has found in her an unclean matter (a Hebrew word connected with uncovered stools in Deuteronomy 23:12-14; with Noah's nakedness in Genesis 9:21-23; and with Edom under the figure of a drunken woman in Lamentations 4:21—that is, some moral or sexual uncleanness apart from adultery, since adultery would call for her death under the Law) and has written for her a certificate of divorce and given it in her hand and sent her away from his house, and she goes out of his house and has another husband (it is assumed she would do this) and the other husband hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and gives it into her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the other husband dies who took her to be his wife, her first husband who sent her away shall not be able to return and take her (again) to be his wife."

In other words, a man is to think twice before he divorces his wife even for what seems to be a good reason. He might want her back, but if she has married again, he could not have her.

3. Jesus Forbade Divorce as Contrary to God's Will and Word.

He made this clear in Matthew 19:5,6 and Mark 10:6-9.

4. Paul Forbids a Christian Couple to Get a Divorce.

"And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord (Paul had an actual saying of Jesus to back this up), Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain un-

married, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife" (1 Corinthians 7:10,11).

Although Paul recognized that Christians were getting divorces he commanded that they keep the way open for reconciliation.

5. Paul Forbids Christians to Take the Initiative in Getting a Divorce Because Their Partner Is an Unbeliever.

"But to the rest speak I, not the Lord (Paul did not have an actual saying of Jesus to back this up, though Paul was speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit); If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him (as a faithful wife), let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. . . . But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage (not enslaved) in such cases" (1 Corinthians 7:12-16).

Thus Paul indicates that the Christian cannot stop an unbelieving partner from leaving (getting a divorce) if he or she insists on it.

6. Jesus Permitted a Christian to Initiate a Divorce When There Was Fornication.

"But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matthew 5:32. See also Matthew 19:9). This is permission, however, not a command.

The Greek word for "fornication" (porneia) may include especially repeated acts of adultery, but usually means habitual sexual immorality of any kind both before and after marriage. (A "porne" was a prostitute.) A few scholars would limit the meaning of fornication here to incest, but this is not the normal usage of the word.

Some would rule out this exception because it is not found in Mark and Luke, not wanting to build a teaching on just the two passages in Matthew. However, we accept the length of the millennium as spanning one thousand years even though this time period is mentioned in only one Bible passage (Revelation 20:2-7). The same principle applies to other Bible teachings.

It is seldom, if ever, that any single passage gives all aspects of truth on any single theme. In order to come to an understanding of any truth, we must take the whole of what the Bible teaches.

C. Remarriage

1. The Law Accepted the Fact That Divorce Permitted Remarriage.

This is clear from the passage in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 already quoted. The same passage shows that the Law put some limits on remarriage. Malachi 2:11 condemned remarriage to an unbeliever. A priest was forbidden to take a divorced woman as his wife (Leviticus 21:7).

2. Jesus in His Basic Teaching Forbids the Remarriage of Divorced Persons.

He condemns remarriage as an act of adultery, a sin against the covenant of the first marriage (Mark 10:11,12; Luke 16:18; Matthew 5:32; 19:9).

However, Jesus recognized that the basic problem is divorce itself, for He saw that the divorced could be expected to remarry. By doing so they would commit adultery and cause the new partner to commit adultery. Thus, the basic purpose in what Jesus says is to prevent divorce in the first place.

3. Matthew 5:32 Adds an Exceptive Clause.

"Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication (habitual sexual immorality) causeth her to commit adultery." This shows that a husband who divorces a sexually immoral woman does not cause her to commit adultery, since she is already guilty of adultery.

4. Matthew 19:9 Also Carried This Exceptive Clause.

In this verse the best manuscripts read: "Whosoever puts away

(divorces) his wife except for fornication (habitual sexual immorality) and marries another, commits adultery."⁴

It should be emphasized that the exception has in view sexual immorality, not merely a single act. Wherever possible, sexually immoral practices should be dealt with through repentance, confession, forgiveness and reconciliation, thus saving the marriage.

Some, including those who follow the traditions of the Roman Catholics, say that the exceptive clause does not apply to "and marries another, commits adultery." In this view, fornication or habitual sexual immorality, gives the right to separation from bed and board but does not sever the bond of marriage or give any right to dissolve it. But this is difficult to fit in with other passages which deal with the responsibilities of husband and wife (1 Corinthians 7:2-5). Therefore, most Protestants have always taken the position that the exceptive clause does apply to "and marries another."

It should also be pointed out that in extreme cases where divorce seems necessary, Jesus does not command remarriage. However, it is clear that in Matthew 19:9 Jesus assumes the man will marry. The verse deals with divorce and remarriage, and the laws of grammar make the exceptive clause apply to both. The Greek word for "put away" (apoluo) is used with regard to the Deuteronomy passage referred to in Matthew 5:31 and Mark 10:2-12. There, the "putting away" clearly did dissolve the marriage bond. Jesus did not change the nature of divorce as dissolving marriage. He simply threw out all excuses, reasons, or causes except "fornication" (porneia, habitual sexual immorality). However, in no case does He command divorce or remarriage. They are merely permitted under this one condition.

Again, the objection is made that Romans 7:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 7:39 make no exception to the statement that marriage is dissolved by death. Thus some take this to mean that marriage is broken by death alone.

But these passages are stating basic principles and do not deal with the exceptions. Romans 7 recognizes that the husband under the Law could get a divorce, but the wife could not. Therefore, the wife was bound by "the law of her husband" until his death. We must also keep in mind that under the Law the penalty for adultery was death. This penalty of death was given not to break the marriage relationship, but in recognition that it was already broken.

5. 1 Corinthians 7:15 Also Contains an Exception.

"But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or sister is not under bondage (not enslaved) in such cases; but God hath called us to peace."

"Not enslaved" is a strong expression. Yet some, insisting on the basis of Romans 7:2 that death alone can dissolve a marriage, interpret this passage to mean that the Christian is free to let the unbelieving partner go, but not free to remarry. However, we must remember that in Romans 7:2 Paul is not addressing himself to the subject of divorce and remarriage. He is simply using the unique situation of the woman under the Law in which only death could loose her from her husband to illustrate believers' complete dependence upon Christ's vicarious death to loose them from the claims of the Law. Paul was aware that under the Law the husband had the option of divorcing his wife (Deuteronomy 24:1-4), which was not available to the wife. Only death could loose her from the law of her husband. Sound principles of exegesis will not permit one to assume that Paul's view on the subject of divorce and remarriage appears here.

If a believer is "not enslaved" when an unbelieving spouse, unwilling to remain in the marriage, divorces him (or her), he (or she) must be considered set free. Since it is the unbelieving partner who determines to go and initiates a divorce, the believer's freedom seems to be more than a freedom to let him (or her) go, since he (or she)

⁴ Some manuscripts omit "and marries another," but others, including the Sinaitic manuscript, contain it, and the sense of the context calls for it. There is no manuscript evidence for leaving out the exceptive clause. (See John Murray, *Divorce*, p. 40.)

is going anyway. The plain meaning seems to be that the believer is set free to remarry if he or she so chooses.

Paul, however, does discourage remarriage for the sake of ministering to the Lord. "Are you free from a wife, seek not a wife . . . Yet if you marry, you have not sinned" (1 Corinthians 7:27-28).

6. Remarriage Is a New Contract or Covenant.

Some say that a person who remarries is "living in adultery." They say that though adultery is not an unforgivable sin, true repentance will demand quitting the sin, as the thief must quit stealing. They argue that for a person who has remarried to live with the new partner involves them continually in acts of adultery. But to assume an analogy between marriage and thievery is erroneous. It is obvious that the one always involves a contract, but the other does not.

A remarriage which is entered into wrongly does indeed constitute an act of adultery against the previous contract. This breaks the old contract. The former partner is set free. Once a person remarries he is then obligated to be faithful to the new contract. Deuteronomy chapter 4 showed it to be wrong to go back to the old marriage contract, although Hosea was later commanded to do so as an illustration of the love of God that would take back apostate Israel.

The Bible shows that God expects contracts to be kept even when entered into wrongly. When Joshua wrongly entered into a contract with the Gibeonites, God not only expected him to fulfill it, He gave him miracles of a hailstorm and the long day to help him (Joshua 9 and 10). Isaiah warned Ahaz against making a covenant with the Assyrians, but he made it anyway (Isaiah 7). Then God warned Hezekiah against breaking it and going down to Egypt for help (Isaiah 30 and 31).

D. The Place of the Divorced and Remarried in the Church.

1. Membership Is Open to All Born-again Believers.

This would certainly include those who were divorced and remarried before they were saved. Paul indicates that those in various social and legal positions, such as the circumcised and those who were slaves, should be accepted in the condition in which they were when they were saved (1 Corinthians 7:17-24). "Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God" (1 Corinthians 7:24).

God accepted the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10 and 11). Knowing the frequency of divorce and remarriage among the Romans of the time, it is very probable that some at the house of Cornelius were so involved.

Paul gives the Christian no option but to continue to live with the unbelieving partner who is willing to live with him or her. Again, it is very probable that many of these Corinthians believers were married to unbelievers who had previous spouses still living. If God accepts such believers, who are we to judge? However, in no case shall a person be accepted into membership while living in a common-law state of matrimony.

2. The Offices of Elder and Deacon Are Not Open to Those Who Are Remarried.

The offices of elder (corresponding to pastor) and deacon are restricted by the requirement that they shall be "the husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2,12). Some say this refers to polygamy. History clearly indicates, however, that polygamy was not generally practiced at the time, while divorce and remarriage were extremely common among both Gentiles and Jews.

We must remember that the Bible does not indicate that everyone is to have a turn at these offices in the church. The Bible lays down specific requirements for elders and deacons. The requirement that they be the husband of one wife is in keeping with the requirement that they must have a good report from outside the church. Both for the sake of the witness of the Church and for the sake of freedom from entanglements, those who administer the affairs of the local church must meet these and other qualifications. This in no way promotes a double standard of morality, but is simply a matter of qualifications for the specific ministries of elders and deacons.

Some would restrict the remarried from all the ministries of the church. However, every member of the Body has a function, and the ministries are given by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:16).

III. Resolutions Implementing the Application of Biblical Principles to Our Bylaws, as Revised and Adopted by the General Council in Session:

1. Membership

WHEREAS in order to bring the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God into conformity with the previous action of this body a formal resolution to that effect is necessary; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "a" of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

"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 people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17,20,24)."

"b. We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a 'common-law' state of matrimony."

Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "a" presently reads:

"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 in the light as God lets it shine on their souls."

2. Remarriage

WHEREAS in order to bring the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God into conformity with the previous action of this body a formal resolution to that effect is necessary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "b" of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

"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 divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28)."

Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "b" presently reads:

"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 divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 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)."

3. Local Church Leadership

WHEREAS in order to bring the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God into conformity with the previous action of this body a formal resolution to that effect is necessary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "c" of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

"c. (1) Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop or elder and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for

Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them."

"c. (2) It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards, in accordance with the provisions of Article XII of the constitution).

Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "c" presently reads:

"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."

4. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

WHEREAS in order to bring the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God into conformity with the previous action of this body a formal resolution to that effect is necessary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "d" of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

"d. We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "b". Any minister of our fellowship who performs a ceremony for a disapproved marriage (indicated above), unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship. An Assemblies of God minister is required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies in scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage, prior to the performing of the ceremony. He may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom and sobriety."

"e. We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "b", could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such marriages."

Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "d" presently reads:

"d. We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living. Any minister of our Fellowship who performs such a ceremony, unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship."

5. Ministerial Credentials

WHEREAS in order to bring the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God into conformity with the previous action of this body a formal resolution to that effect is necessary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Article VII, Section 5, paragraph "b" of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

"b. We disapprove of District Councils granting credentials to a married person in cases where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living (See Article VIII, Section 5e)."

Article VII, Section 5, paragraph "b" presently reads:

"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 (See Article VIII, Section 5e)."

6. Annulments for Ministers

WHEREAS the legal profession is not always sensitive to the ecclesiastical consequences of a divorce upon an individual's unanticipated desire to enter the ministry at some future date; and,

WHEREAS annulments tend to be more difficult to obtain than divorces, thus making divorce a more popular method among the legal profession for the dissolution of a marriage; and

WHEREAS there are cases from time to time where divorces were

granted even though clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud is obtainable which would have made annulment a much more desirable ecclesiastical alternate; and,

WHEREAS there is serious cause to question the wisdom of modern secular courts in such questions of ecclesiastical importance; therefore, be it
RESOLVED That Article VII, Section 5, paragraph "c" of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

"c. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery."

Article VII, Section 5, paragraph "c" presently reads:

"c. The Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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 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."

Official Directory Listing (Article VII, Section 8)

Brother Arthur Parsons was asked to bring the report of the committee regarding the listing of ministers in the directory. A motion prevailed to adopt the report of the committee with the addition of the words "or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry" after "old age or ill health" on line 17. The report, as amended, follows:

"In response to an assignment given to the Non-Preaching Ministries Study Committee by the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration, which has to do with Article VII, Section 8, "Official List," your committee has made the following observations:

"The present bylaw makes it incumbent upon the General Secretary's office to make final judgment as to the ministerial status of the minister as it relates to full-time ministry, and to make final decisions as to the publication of the minister's name. The original requirement for listing in this manner was based upon factors which are no longer existent, namely, that of sending the ministerial directory to the Railroad Clergy Bureaus, and these were required to show whether or not a person was in secular work. Along with its feeling that the present manner of listing is discriminatory, the committee also feels that full-time ministry should be based on the priority one gives to the call of God upon his life. Therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 8, paragraph a, be amended to read:

"'An official list of all ordained ministers shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and published for the convenience of all concerned. This official list shall be revised annually and contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose certificates of fellowship have been issued for the current year.' Also, be it

"RESOLVED, That paragraph b be amended to read:

"'All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic or other full-time ministry for a period of one year or more shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the General Secretary. He 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 a year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for one year. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year, their names shall be eliminated from the ministerial list. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by the infirmity of old age or ill health or those engaged in other aspects of 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 application bearing the endorsement of the district official."

Arthur H. Parsons, Chariman, Frank N. McAllister, Secretary, Lester Dickenson, U. S. Grant, James Hamill

Recognition of Executive Presbyters

The Chair presented the executive presbyters who had been elected for the various areas:

Edgar W. Bethany, Southeast
James E. Hamill, Gulf
Joseph R. Flower, Northeast
Richard W. Dortch, Great Lakes
Roy H. Wead, North Central
Paul Lowenberg, South Central
D. H. McLaughlin, Southwest
N. D. Davidson, Northwest

Richard Dortch was asked to bring a report from the Fi-

nance Committee for the General Council. He announced that \$17,237.67 had been received and there remained a balance needed of \$2,762.33 to meet the budget. The offering was taken as the organist and pianist played an offertory.

The meeting recessed at 4:55 with the singing of the Doxology, to meet again at 7 p.m. Percy Brewster will be bringing the message and the business session will convene at 8:00 p.m. C. C. Burnett was asked to dismiss in prayer.

MONDAY NIGHT—AUGUST 20

The business session was called to order at 8:15 p.m.

Brother Willie Millsaps was asked to lead in prayer.

Brother Aaron Wall, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was asked to present the resolutions for consideration. Brother Wall introduced the members of the committee: Jay Alford, Lloyd Christiansen, Robert Gatlin, Jose Giron, Roland D. Hastie, David T. Holden, Cecil Janway, Haskell Rogers, E. E. Rohde, Thomas Trask, Verne Warner. The resolutions were presented in the following order by Brother Aaron Wall, chairman of the Resolutions Committee:

Resolution 1. Parliamentary Order

"WHEREAS, Various parliamentary authorities disagree among themselves as to the fine points of parliamentary order; and

"WHEREAS, The National Association of Parliamentarians, a widely recognized national parliamentary organization, regularly conducts instruction courses on parliamentary law and also operates its own organization by using Roberts' Rules of Order; therefore be it

"RESOLVED That Article I, Parliamentary Order, page 109, be amended by substituting the following:

"The work of the General Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the Spirit of Christian love and fellowship."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that this resolution be adopted.

Resolution 2. Foreign Missions Board

"WHEREAS, There has been a tremendous growth in the Division of Foreign Missions since the Foreign Missions Board was created; and

"WHEREAS, Changing methods of promotions of Foreign Missions has placed increased responsibility on the District Missionary Secretary; and

"WHEREAS, Such responsibility of promoting missions and assisting missionaries, etc., gives the district missionary secretary considerable knowledge in missions; and

"WHEREAS, The present wording of Article XIV, Section 2, paragraph d, prevents the Division of Foreign Missions from availing itself of the experience and knowledge of a district missionary secretary on the Foreign Missions Board; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That Article XIV, Section 2, paragraph d, page 146 be amended by substituting the term "ordained ministers" for the word "pastors," to read:

"The activities of the Foreign Missions Division shall be under the supervision of a Foreign Missions Board which shall consist of the executive director of the division, two executive presbyters, the division secretary, four field secretaries, and eight ordained ministers of proven missionary zeal and accomplishments who shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery from the eight established areas of the United States and ratified by the General Presbytery in session.

"The term of office of the appointed ministers 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."

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by the addition, "four of whom shall be pastors," at end of line 18. The motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost. The motion to adopt resolution number 2 was voted upon and declared lost.

Resolution 3. Foreign Missions Board of Appeal

RESOLVED, That Article XIV of the General Council Bylaws be amended so that Section 2, paragraph "d-5", page 147, will read:

"Sit as a Board of Appeals in all matters relating to field decisions. In the case of Divisional decisions which are appealed, there shall be a Board of Appeals consisting of

those members of the Foreign Missions Board who are not members of the Foreign Missions Administrative Committee. This board shall act upon any appeal from a divisional decision. Members of the Foreign Missions Administrative Committee who are members of the board may present their case to the Board of Appeals but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting.

"Either the missionary or the administrative committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that this resolution be adopted.

Resolution 4. Investigating Reports on the Mission Field

"RESOLVED, That Article IX. Discipline, be amended by combining the two paragraphs of Section 3 (page 129) into one and designating it as subsection "a" and by adding subsection "b" which shall read as follows:

"In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of the Foreign Missions Division, that division shall take the initiative to place complete data in the hands of the home district of the minister involved. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the home district. The Foreign Missions Division shall convey all information available to the home district in the following manner:

- "1. At the earliest date after the Foreign Missions Division receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the home district of the minister or missionary, with a copy to the district missionary secretary.
- "2. A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying to him all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field secretary of the field involved, and shall be presented to the district superintendent for his use in any action the district may take.
- "3. When in the judgment of the Foreign Missions Di-

vision or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct) arrangements may be made for the gathering of such."

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that resolution number 4 be adopted.

Resolution 5. Missionary Fellowship Certificates

"WHEREAS, The Foreign Missions Board has carefully considered that on page 151, Article XIV, Section 7, Fellowship Certificates is no longer relevant to its program, therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That Section 7 be deleted and the sections that follow renumbered."

A motion prevailed that the resolution be adopted.

Resolution 6. World Ministries Giving

It was moved and seconded that we adopt this resolution.

It was moved and seconded to delete several words in the resolution, starting with the word "to place each appeal and minister on an equal basis and," line 8. This would amend the sentence to read "The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit." A vote was taken and the motion was declared lost.

It was moved that the word "world" be deleted in line 13. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was offered to amend by deleting the words "approve or sponsor a project" and substituting therefor "receive World Ministries credit for any projects." The sentence as amended would read "It is understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries credit for any projects specifically disapproved by the General Council." The motion to amend was seconded and carried.

The motion to adopt resolution 6 as amended was voted upon and declared carried. The resolution as amended follows:

"Amend Article XIII by the addition of a Section 4, to read as follows:

"Section 4. World Ministries Giving

"a. In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches shall be encouraged to send offerings therefor at regular intervals.

"A combined report of all offerings which are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of World Ministries Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

"b. World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to: Foreign and Home Missions, Spiritual Life—Evangelism, support of executive offices, Education, Sunday School, Christ's Ambassadors, Radio, Benevolences, Women's Missionary Council, Men's Fellowship, educational institutions and other General Council, regional and district sponsored or approved projects. It is understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries credit for any projects specifically disapproved by the General Council."

Resolution 7. Women's Missionary Council Committee

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the word "six" be substituted for the word "eight" in line 10.

A further motion prevailed to amend Resolution 7 by deleting "subject to the approval of the General Presbytery."

A motion further prevailed to change one year to two years in the length of service for members on the resident committee.

The resolution as amended follows:

"WHEREAS, There is a need for a representative field committee to assist in guiding and developing the work of the Women's Missionary Council Department, be it

"RESOLVED, That Article XXIII of the General Council Bylaws, Page 164, be amended by substituting Section 2, paragraph "b" with the following:

"The National Women's Missionary Council Committee shall consist of the national director of the Church Ministries Division, the secretary of the department, the Missionettes coordinator, other key personnel from the national office, and not more than eight additional representatives from various areas of the United States appointed by the Executive Presbytery. This committee shall meet annually. Its members shall serve for two years or until their successors are appointed"; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That present paragraph "c" of Section 2 be amended by the insertion of the word "resident" as the second word of the paragraph between the words "The" and "Women" and by the addition of the following sentence: "Members of the committee shall serve for a period of two years, or until their successors are selected," so that the paragraph will read:

"The resident Women's Missionary Council Committee shall consist of the national director, the secretary of the department, the director of the Home Missions Department, the director of the Foreign Missions Department, and two others, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. Members of the committee shall serve for two years or until their successors are appointed."

A motion to adopt the resolution as amended was voted upon and declared carried.

Resolution 8. General Presbyters

"WHEREAS, In times past the selection of district representation on the General Presbytery was left to the discretion of the member districts; and

"WHEREAS, By action of 1971 General Council the prerogative was taken from the districts, and

"WHEREAS, Some districts feel that this action is discriminatory

"THEREFORE, Be it resolved, that the present Article IX of the Constitution, Section 3, (page 106) be amended to read as follows:

"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. The General Presbytery shall be the of-

ficial policy making body of the General Council when the General Council is not in session. Each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members, the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council in harmony with the district constitution and by-laws. They shall take office immediately."

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted.

A motion to amend was offered that the phrase, "the district superintendent together with two others," be changed to read "the district superintendent together with the district secretary-treasurer and one other who shall be elected. . . ."

A substitute motion was made that the phrase, "the district superintendent together with two others," be deleted. The motion was seconded but when the vote was taken it was declared lost.

The original motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to a committee of seven people to make a study of the present method of distribution on the General Presbytery and that this report be brought before the General Presbytery next year so that it can be circulated and brought before the next General Council. The motion was voted upon and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that resolution 8 be amended by adding the words "one of which is a pastor and not a district officer" after the word "Council." This motion was voted upon but declared lost.

The original motion to adopt resolution 8 was voted upon but was declared lost.

A privileged motion was offered that we confine discussion to no more than 2 minutes per speech. The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 9. Study Commission

"WHEREAS, This century has witnessed one of history's greatest outpourings of the Holy Spirit, and

"WHEREAS, This Pentecostal charismatic revival began simultaneously throughout the world and among different groups of Christians, resulting in the formation of various Pentecostal fellowships; and

"WHEREAS, The organization in recent years of inter-Pentecostal associations such as PFNA, WPF, FGMF has demonstrated the value and spiritual blessing of closer fellowship with those of like precious faith; and

"WHEREAS, Our missionaries have frequently recognized the confusion to the nationals when several Pentecostal groups, claiming to possess the same experience appear to be in competition with one another; and

"WHEREAS, It is likely that here in America, talents and the Lord's money may well have been uselessly expended on duplication of Sunday school and youth literature where union Pentecostal literature would have been just as spiritually useful, and perhaps even better written and more economically prepared by the sharing of the best spiritual talents from a wider Pentecostal fellowship and cutting costs through a larger market; and

"WHEREAS, We live in a highly mobile society where members of one Pentecostal group may find themselves transferred to a community where there is no congregation of their Pentecostal fellowship; and

"WHEREAS, There is a movement toward 'planned communities' in which it is not likely that more than one piece of land would be allocated for a Pentecostal church, and it is quite possible (at least in the early days of these planned communities) that at the time the land must be purchased there would not be sufficient numbers of persons from any single recognized Pentecostal fellowship living in that community to purchase land, and build and support a church, thereby perhaps forever closing that community, which may eventually house hundreds of thousands of people to a recognized Pentecostal witness; be it therefore "RESOLVED by the General Council in session:

- "1. That we go on record as favoring the union of Pentecostal bodies where such can be accomplished without compromise of our "Statement of Fundamental Truths" or our important historical positions on other matters including the relationships between local congregations and district and national organizations;
- "2. That we encourage the District Councils to likewise go on record favorably concerning this matter;
- "3. That a permanent General Council commission be es-

tablished to explore with any other interested Pentecostal fellowships and to receive suggestions of areas of cooperation and proposals of union, and report periodically to the General Council and the members of the Assemblies of God. It being clearly understood that this commission shall have no authority to commit the fellowship to any programs—but only to study and propose plans. Final decision of any legal proposals to be handled by the General Council in session.

- "4. The copy of this resolution and its purposes as suggested be sent to all the bodies officially represented in the PFNA with a request that they likewise present this resolution to their national councils in session and they too set up commissions to search out methods for union and closer cooperation between Pentecostal bodies."

A motion prevailed that Resolution 9 be adopted. However, after considerable discussion, it was moved and seconded that the action be rescinded. The motion to rescind was seconded and carried.

Resolution 10. Prayer for Civil Leaders

A motion to adopt this resolution was seconded.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by the inclusion of the President, the members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the aides to each of them. A substitute motion prevailed to clarify the resolution to read "the inclusion of all the officers of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government." The amendment was seconded and carried.

A substitute motion prevailed that the resolution be further amended by adding the words "to frequently in" in the place of the words "in each" after the word "assemblies." The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 10, as amended follows:

"WHEREAS, We live in times that are especially perilous; and

"WHEREAS, All of our officials of government, of whatever party, need godly wisdom to do that which is just, honest and in the best interests of a peaceable and orderly society; and

"WHEREAS, Holy Scriptures request that, 'Supplications, prayers, intercessions be made for all that are in authority

that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty'; and

"WHEREAS, It has not become a firmly established custom among our Assemblies to regularly carry out this clear Biblical injunction, be it therefore

"RESOLVED, As an essential resolution that the General Council in session encourage all of our pastors, and assemblies to pray frequently in public service for all leaders of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government and all those in authority that we 'may live quiet and peaceable lives'; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That provision be made periodically, through various publications, to remind our constituency of this scriptural injunction."

The main motion to adopt the resolution, as amended, was carried.

A privileged motion regarding resolution number 9 prevailed that:

In the light of interest in the proposed resolution for a Study Commission, that this General Council go on record as encouraging the Executive Presbytery to keep the lines of communication open with any Pentecostal groups interested in co-operating or possibly uniting with the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 11. Division of Speed-the-Light Funds

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to delete the recommended allocation of Speed-the-Light funds: "65 percent Foreign Missions—Speed-the-Light; 18 percent District Home Missions—Speed-the-Light; 7 percent Special Ministries—Home Missions, Speed-the-Light; 10 percent National Youth (CA) Administration Costs, Speed-the-Light," and substitute therefor the following:

72 Percent Foreign Missions and Special Ministries
Home Missions—Speed-the-Light

18 Percent District Home Missions—Speed-the-Light

10 Percent National Youth (CA) Department Administration Costs, Speed-the-Light

A substitute motion was offered and seconded that the following breakdown be used:

- 60 Percent Foreign Missions
- 25 Percent Home Missions
- 10 Percent Special Ministries
- 5 Percent National Youth (CA) Department Administrative Costs

General Council Budget

The Chair reported that we had now received slightly more in the offerings than the budgeted expenses of \$20,000. The evening offering was \$1,434.79 making a total of \$20,063.13 for the entire Council. The chair stated that for this we do give God the thanks.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and prayer was offered by C. T. Beem.

TUESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 21

The session opened with the singing of the chorus "Oh How I Love Jesus" and the chorus "My Jesus I Love Thee." The Scripture was read and prayer was offered by William Eastlake, National Director of the Publication Division. He read Psalm 133. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. Reverend Morris Williams lead in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg gave the final roster committee report.

Ordained	2,731
Delegates	1,012
Licensed	281
Visitors	3,287

Total	7,311
Total voting	3,743

A motion prevailed to accept the report and that the roster be closed.

At the close of the Monday evening meeting, there was a motion before the house to amend resolution number 11. There was also a motion to amend the amendment.

The motion to amend the amendment was voted upon and declared lost.

The original motion to amend was then voted upon and declared carried.

The resolution as amended follows:

Division of Speed-the-Light Funds

"WHEREAS, There is a need to reach the unevangelized peoples of America; and

"WHEREAS, The present policy on allocation of Speed-the-Light funds provides for a maximum of 4½ cents of each Speed-the-Light dollar to be used for Speed-the-Light equipment for home missionaries under appointment by the Division of Home Missions; and

"WHEREAS, The present wording of the Bylaws under Article XXIV World Missions Plan, Section 2, page 164, Speed-the-Light offerings, Paragraph 1, reads as follows:

"Before assignments from Speed-the-Light offerings are made to any projects, an amount not to exceed ten percent of the total offerings received shall be allocated to administrative costs of Speed-the-Light. It is recommended that the remainder of Speed-the-Light offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 75 Percent Foreign Missions—Speed-the-Light
- 20 Percent District Home Missions—Speed-the-Light
- 5 Percent Special Ministries—Home Missions, Speed-the-Light," therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XXIV World Missions Plan, Section 2, Speed-the-Light offerings Paragraph 1, of the Bylaws be amended by substitution as follows:

"Speed-the-Light offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 72 Percent Foreign Missions and Special Ministries Home Missions—Speed-the-Light
- 18 Percent District Home Missions—Speed-the-Light
- 10 Percent National Youth (CA) Department Administration Costs, Speed-the-Light

The motion to adopt the resolution as amended was voted upon and declared carried.

Resolution 12. College Youth Ministries

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the resolution be adopted. (It was pointed out that in view of the previous resolution the 20 percent on line 14 will be changed to 18 percent without the need of a motion.) The resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, The volume of college youth ministries in the Assemblies of God is presently experiencing tremendous

expansion so that many districts are now employing college youth representatives; and

"WHEREAS, The need for the evangelization of the campus requires extensive, varied methods, and the purchase of properties is not always advisable; therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That Article XXIV, Section 2, page 165, be amended by the deletion of the word 'including' and by substituting the word 'ministries' for the word 'facilities' in the second paragraph. The paragraph as amended would read:

"The portion returned to the district shall be designated for the purchase and erection of property in pioneer fields, and Chi Alpha ministries, with the exception that up to one-half of the 18 percent returned to District Home Missions under World Speed-the-Light be allowed for the administration of the district Christ's Ambassadors office at the discretion of the district officary."

Resolution 13. Ministerial Relations

It was moved, seconded, and carried that this resolution be adopted.

The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, There has been an expressed need for a clearer statement on ministerial relations as presently expressed in Article VII, Section 10, paragraph b, (page 121), therefore be it

RESOLVED, That paragraph "b" be amended by an insertion after the word "same" in line 3 by the following statement:

"In the case where a minister resides in one district but pastors a church located in another district, he shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located."

Paragraph "b" would then read as follows:

"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 cooperation with the same. In the case where a minister resides in one district but pastors a church located in another district, he shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located. They shall be expected to cooperate

with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily."

Resolution 14. Transfers

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.

A motion was made to amend by the addition of, "or who are students outside of their home districts" at the end of line 17. The motion was seconded and carried.

It was moved that we further amend by adding "or evangelists living in one district who retain their membership in a district elsewhere."

A substitute motion was made that this read "or for evangelists residing outside their home district." The substitute motion was seconded and carried.

An additional motion prevailed to amend by the inclusion of "or those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home district."

A motion to amend by including "institutional chaplains" failed to carry.

The resolution as amended follows:

"WHEREAS, There has been an expressed need for a clearer statement in regard to Article VII, Section 11, paragraph 1, (page 121), therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the paragraph be amended with the addition of the following words:

"In line 7 after the word "retired" insert "from active ministry" and in line 8 after the word "forces" insert "currently on active duty."

The paragraph would then read as follows:

"When a minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within sixty days by the district of which he is a member, unless there are definite charges pending against him. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which he moves. Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at general headquarters, for those who are retired from active ministry, for those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty, for those who are serving on the faculties of our schools, for those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home districts,

for evangelists residing outside their home district, and for students in schools outside of their home district.

The motion to adopt resolution number 14 with the three amendments was voted upon and declared carried.

Resolution 15. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend by deleting lines 13 through 23 beginning with "We recommend" and substituting a second paragraph which reads as follows:

"We recommend that our ministers encourage fellowship among all believers who may be sympathetic toward this last day move of God. Should our ministers be invited to minister in any non-Assemblies of God church at a time which does not conflict with his own local responsibilities he should feel free to accept such invitation as an open door of utterance for his Lord."

The motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend by striking "District Council Office" and inserting the "nearest Assembly of God minister" and deleting "Pentecostal" on line 15. The motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost.

The resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, There seems to be some misunderstanding as to the real meaning of Section 9, Article VIII of our Bylaws, page 126, and

"WHEREAS, Many of our ministers are receiving invitations from various denominational churches, as a result of the charismatic renewal; and

"WHEREAS, We can be of some spiritual help to these newly Spirit-filled people, looking to us for guidance, be it therefore

"RESOLVED, That Article VIII, Section 9 of the Bylaws, page 126, be amended as follows:

"Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work. We recommend, therefore, that our ministers confer with dis-

trict council officials before engaging in ministry in a Pentecostal church not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings with the local Assemblies of God church. If the minister does not have district approval, he shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church.

"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."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that resolution number 15 be tabled.

Resolution 16. Morality on Radio

It was moved, seconded, and carried that we adopt resolution 16. The resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, There has been an emergence of sex-oriented radio talk shows which encourage listeners to openly discuss their sexual behavior; and

"WHEREAS, There is no redeeming social value in such a nonclinical approach to the subject of human sexuality; and

"WHEREAS, There is imminent danger in such discussions becoming a little more than showcases for those who receive abnormal stimulation through talking about lasciviousness and perversion; and

"WHEREAS, It is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret" (Ephesians 5:12); be it

"RESOLVED, That this General Council declares its opposition to nonclinical, sex-oriented radio talk shows; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That Assemblies of God believers be urged to write letters to radio stations presenting such talk shows, urging them to regulate themselves by taking such programs off the air; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission."

Resolution 17. Morality on Television

It was moved, seconded, and carried that this resolution be adopted. The resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, There is a growing permissiveness in the television industry to present morally offensive material such as raw sex, homosexuality, nudity, profanity, and ruthless violence; and

"WHEREAS, The medium of television, whether local, network or cable, does vitally affect the moral standards of the viewers; and

"WHEREAS, 'Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people' (Proverbs 34:14); be it

"RESOLVED, That this General Council declares its conviction that television programs which degrade sex, glorify violence, and deny moral decency have no place on the airwaves or on cable television; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That we endorse television programming which presents the gospel, as well as that programming which educates, informs, or entertains in a wholesome manner, and that we vigorously oppose television programming which undermines the moral values and ideals upon which this nation was founded; and, be it further

"RESOLVED, That we call on Assemblies of God believers to communicate appreciation to producers, networks, and sponsors for television programs that are morally wholesome; and, be it further

"RESOLVED, That we call on Assemblies of God believers to express themselves in opposition to the inclusion of morally offensive scenes and profane language on television, through letter writing to the networks and local stations urging them to regulate themselves, and by selective buying practices of products sponsoring offensive programs, and by selective viewing in our homes, and by a concerted call to legislators for clear legislation that will prohibit the exhibition of obscenity on television—network, local, and cable; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the presidents of each of the major television networks and the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission."

Resolution 18. Honorary General Presbyters

"WHEREAS, The General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God has officially recognized that our beloved brethren: G. H. Blair, E. R. Foster, J. K. Gressett, G. W. Hardcastle, Sr., Charles W. H. Scott, and T. H. Spence have for many years rendered faithful and distinguished service, both as district and General Council officers, and therefore nominates them to serve as honorary members of the General Presbytery; therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this 35th General Council in session designate these brethren as Honorary General Presbyters." It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the resolution.

Resolution 19. Name of the Assemblies of God

It was moved and seconded that we adopt the resolution.

A motion to amend by substituting the word "honored" for "revered" was seconded, and carried.

A motion prevailed to amend by the addition of a paragraph to read, "And be it further recommended that no Assemblies of God church affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God represent itself as being independent or non-denominational."

A motion to amend the amendment to include "district council affiliated" was seconded and carried.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that in paragraph 3, the word "people" be substituted for "college."

The resolution, as amended, follows:

"WHEREAS, The name Assemblies of God has come to denote a rich and spiritual heritage; and

"WHEREAS, Our Movement has become recognized as the leading Pentecostal fellowship of the world; therefore, be it

"RECOMMENDED, That the name "Assemblies of God" be acknowledged, honored, and kept before the Assemblies of God people; and, be it further

"RECOMMENDED, That our churches have the Assemblies of God name or use the Assemblies of God emblem as a part of their church name; and be it further

"RECOMMENDED, That no Assemblies of God church affiliated with a district council or The General Council

of the Assemblies of God represent itself as being independent or nondenominational.

The motion to adopt the resolution, as amended, was voted upon and declared carried.

Resolution 20. Resolution of Appreciation

"WHEREAS, It would be impossible to plan and conduct a General Council without the services, talents, cooperation, and assistance of so many; therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That the 35th General Council express deep appreciation for the many courtesies and great assistance given, and that the General Secretary convey these sentiments in writing wherever practicable to the following:

"1. The officers, pastors, and churches of the Peninsular Florida, West Florida, and Spanish Eastern Districts for their interest, enthusiasm, and support in so many ways.

"2. The Greater Miami Assemblies of God ministers and churches for outstanding help in serving as well as attending the convention.

"3. The Greater Miami newspapers, radio and television stations for their cordial reception and generous coverage of the General Council.

"4. The Tourist Development Authority for their assistance before and during the Council, particularly the workers who helped with registration.

"5. The staff of the Convention Hall, members of city government, the fire and police departments, hotels, and other businesses for their assistance.

"6. The many committees for working so hard and faithfully, including Child Care, Children's Activities, Equipment, Exhibits and Trucking, Hospitality and Housing, Publicity, Ushering, and Youth Activities, and particularly the Courtesy Corps.

"7. The many companies who made unique contributions through their colorful and informative exhibits.

"8. The convention staff members and many other volunteers who have worked hard and faithfully to meet the needs of the entire General Council."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that this resolution be adopted.

The Spiritual Life Committee

The report of the committee on Spiritual Life was read by Reverend Richard Dortch.

"The Spiritual Life Committee was called by its chairman, Richard Dortch, with the following brethren present: G. F. Lewis, Wm. N. Sachs, Loren Wooten, Kermit Reneau, Charles Hackett, D. H. McLaughlin, T. F. Zimmerman, D. W. Flower.

"This committee wishes to commend the general superintendent and our headquarters leadership for their continued emphasis on a vital, spiritual life, and their concern for the Movement. This emphasis is evidenced by the 1974 theme: "Ready Always" which was presented to the committee by C. W. Denton, coordinator of Spiritual Life—Evangelism.

"We turned the corner in 1968, with the five-year program on Advance launched by the Council on Evangelism at St. Louis, and reemphasized at Minneapolis at the Council on Spiritual Life in 1972.

"One of the results of this outreach is seen by the largest growth of church membership in approximately twenty years. We have also seen a new spiritual vitality.

"Now, a new challenge is before us to utilize the total resources of personnel and material to fulfill the reason why God has raised up the Assemblies of God movement. "We recommend that we take advantage of the opportunities before us:

- The National Leadership Institute, this year in Hot Springs, Arkansas
- A Week of Prayer—January 6-13 we will be thanking the Lord for the words of 1 Samuel 7:12, "...hitherto hath the Lord helped us." This will be a time to look back, a time to look ahead.
- The Pentecost Crusade. Sunday, June 2—the 60th Anniversary will be observed.
- The Council on the Holy Spirit, August 14-16, Kansas City, Missouri

"The committee makes the following observations concerning our fellowship:

- The need for our total leadership to be made aware of their spiritual priorities.

- In our relationship to what God is doing today, the committee felt a need to reemphasize the declaration the Charismatic Study Report presented at the Council on Spiritual Life:

"There is thrilling evidence that God is moving mightily by His Spirit through all the earth. The winds of the Spirit are blowing freely outside the normally recognized Pentecostal bodies. This is the time of a greater fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Thousands of people have prayed for years that this would come to pass. The coming of the Holy Spirit upon so many and in such a broad sweep of the church world is God's way of counteracting the liberalism, secularism, humanism, and occultism that plagues our present-day society.

'Marks of the genuine moving of the Holy Spirit include the following:

1. Emphasis on worship in spirit and truth of Almighty God.
2. Recognition of the Person of Christ—His deity, His incarnation, and His redemptive work.
3. Recognition of the authority of, and a hunger for, the Word of God.
4. Emphasis on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
5. Emphasis on the second coming of Christ.
6. Emphasis on prayer for the sick.
7. Emphasis on sharing Christ in witnessing and evangelism.

'The Assemblies of God wishes to identify with what God is doing in the world today. We recognize that no existing organization fully represents the body of Christ. Neither do we believe that for all true Christians—whether Pentecostal in doctrine or not—to align themselves with an existing organization or a new one, will bring the unity of the Spirit. We do believe in the institution of the Church. We trust the Holy Spirit to bring the members of Christ's body into a true unity of the Spirit. If there is yet a truth to be revealed to the Church, it is the essential unity of the body of Christ, which transcends but does not destroy existing organizational bounds.

'The Assemblies of God does not place approval on that which is manifestly not scriptural in doctrine or conduct. But neither do we categorically condemn everything that does not totally or immediately conform to our standards.

No genuine spiritual movement in church history has been completely free of problems or above criticism." The Pentecostal Movement of this century has experienced its problems relating both to doctrine and conduct. Spiritual maturity leads to a balanced life which will bear the fruit of the Spirit while displaying the gifts of the Spirit.

'We place our trust in God to bring His plan about as He pleases in His sovereign will. It is important that we find our way to a sound scriptural path, avoiding the extremes of an ecumenism that compromises scriptural principles and an exclusivism that excludes true Christians.'

"The Committee further recommends:

- Participation in evangelism, both personal and church.
- Reemphasis on an openness to Pentecostal worship with all the accompanying Biblical characteristics.
- We call our fellowship, minister and layman, to diligence in their personal lives and conduct, always striving to reflect the nature of Christ and discouraging the pursuits of inordinate materialism and all forms of professionalism.

"Let us answer this call in the spirit of the Bible with a love and concern for 'the man.' Even as Jesus said, 'I came not to be ministered unto but to minister,' may we never lose sight of the individual. As the theme of this General Council declares a calling of our world to Christ, we reaffirm our Pentecostal concern "for each individual throughout the world, that they may know Christ in His fullness."

A motion to adopt the report was seconded and carried unanimously.

Central Bible College Board of Directors

The configuration of Central Bible College Board of Directors was presented as a referral from the General Presbytery. It was proposed to amend Article XVI, Section 2, to read as follows:

"Central Bible College, a ministerial training institution providing Bible-centered courses of training to prepare Christian workers for effectual service at home and abroad, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The College is forever bound to give Christ the preeminence in all the things

and bound to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and to the policies and standards as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

"The execution of policy and the administration of the College shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws. The College and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and to the General Presbytery.

"The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have control over all phases of the College."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that this amendment to the bylaws be approved.

Rehabilitation of Disciplined Ministers

Brother Arthur Parsons, chairman of the committee, presented the report as a referral from the General Presbytery. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report be received.

It was called to the attention of the Council that the attempt of the report is to move the rehabilitation of ministers from outside the fellowship to inside the fellowship.

It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted and included in the bylaws.

A point of order was asked if we were still under the time-limit.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the two-minute time limit apply to all deliberations of this session of the General Council.

A motion prevailed to amend the report by the addition of the following: "While fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local Assemblies," in Article IX, Section 1, paragraph 2.

It was moved and seconded that we postpone the action on this document until we have a manual of rehabilitation for guidance. The motion was voted upon but declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that this report be amended by deleting paragraph k of Section 2, Article IX, "Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 9)." The motion to amend was lost.

It was moved and seconded that the manual of rehabilitation

be referred to the General Presbytery for preparation and adoption.

It was moved to amend the motion to read, "that it be referred as an assignment for preparation to the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery." The motion was seconded and carried.

The motion to adopt the report as amended was voted upon and declared carried.

The report, as amended, follows:

P R E A M B L E

Three principle concerns of the Church as touching the integrity of her own life are: (a) the purity of her doctrine; (b) the holiness of her members; and (c) the unity of her fellowship. Therefore, she abhors impure teaching, moral lapses, and anything that would breach spiritual togetherness. A vital part of the ministry of the Church involves the uniting of all her constituents in a common bond of love and fellowship. There are many scriptures relating to the need for Church discipline (Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 6:1-10; 2 Cor. 2:5-7; 7:8-12; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-24; and 2 John 9-11, to name the major passages). The overriding purpose of discipline is remedial ("gaining a brother") and the attitude enjoined upon the Church is to be one of love, long-suffering, gentleness, humility, and a readiness to forgive. 2 Corinthians 2:8 would indicate that restoration to fellowship is the way the Church confirms and ratifies her love toward those requiring discipline. With regard to ministers, the realities of the situation demand a balance between a twofold tension: (a) the recognition that the one who becomes a minister does not cease being human. None of us are above the possibility of a fall in some area of life . . . and (b) the importance of leadership responsibilities in fulfilling the high requirements of the Bible. Recognizing that fair and loving discipline is the responsibility of our church and that a well-defined program of rehabilitation is needful if we are to serve those who need help, we therefore make the following recommendations:

"Article IX. Discipline

"Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

"Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local Assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

"Section 2. Causes for Disciplinary Action

"Violation of Assemblies of God principles as stated in this Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Any conduct unbecoming to a minister or indiscretions involving morals.
- b. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- c. A failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- d. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- e. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- f. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- g. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- h. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.

- i. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 5d, e.)
- j. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 8.)
- k. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church (Cf. Article VIII, Section 9.)
- l. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (Article VIII, Section 10.)

"Section 3. Initiative

"Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials. The officary of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

"Reports or complaints against a minister, alleging violations of Assemblies of God principles (Article IX, Section 2), filed with The Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation and such action as the revealed facts may warrant. A copy shall be sent to the minister's home district.

"If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred, for some reason, cannot take action, the Credentials Committee of the General Council of The Assemblies of God shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated. In the event a district fails to take action within ninety days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to see that action is initiated.

"Section 4. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations of Assemblies of God Principles.

"When a report or complaint of alleged violations by a minister is received, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, and/or an appointed representative, shall make an investigation, having in mind that it is his responsibility to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. This shall be done to determine the source of the report or complaint. The persons involved shall be interviewed in order to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints, after which the accused minister shall be interviewed.

"In the event the investigation so warrants, signed complaints shall be filed with the district office by the complainant describing the alleged violation.

"Section 5. Preparation and Filing of Charges

"If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, members of the district officary making the investigation may prefer charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail of the charges made in keeping with Article IX, Section 2.

"Section 6. District Hearings and Discipline

"In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be requested to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

"A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein:

"Provided, however, an accused member may be disciplined and found guilty of charges preferred, if he refuses to appear at the hearing, or proof is found of willful neglect on his part to take advantage of his rights and privileges.

"If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body.

"Section 7. Credentials Terminations

"In all cases the minister shall be requested by the district to return to the General Secretary's office the credentials which had been issued by that office. Refusal to surrender his Certificate of Ordination and current Fellowship Certificate shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

"Credentials terminations may occur in the following manner:

"a. On the initiative of the minister by resignation.

(1) Lapsed. A minister who does not elect to renew his credentials, providing there is no cause for disciplinary action, shall be listed as having 'lapsed.' His name shall be published in the Ministers Letter as 'lapsed.'

(2) Resigned. A minister who has elected to remove himself from the fellowship, and against whom there are no charges filed, shall be published in the Ministers Letter as resigned. In the event of the announced desire of a minister to resign from our Fellowship, before action shall have been taken in the matter either by the district or the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, 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 case the evidence warrants contrary action, the minister shall be advised of the findings, and appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken. All information pertaining to the disciplinary action taken against the minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

"b. On the initiative of the District (Article IX, Section 3) resulting from disciplinary action by dismissal.

"(1) Dismissal. A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Article IX, Section 2, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Said discipline shall be administered in brotherly love and kindness in an effort to lead the offending minister through a program of rehabilitation (Article IX, Section 9). In the event the offending minister is found to be unrepentant or unwilling to cooperate with, or otherwise fails in the rehabilitation effort, the minister shall be listed as having been dismissed. His name shall be published in the Ministers Letter as 'dismissed.'

"(2) No publication of disciplinary action shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the General Secretary that such has been authorized by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

"c. As a result of affiliation with other church organizations. In the event a minister shall identify himself with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, he shall then be requested by the district to surrender his Certificate of Ordination and his current Fellowship Certificate to the district office. The district in turn shall forward these to the office of the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

"Section 8. Referral for Action to The Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God

"If it is determined that a minister's credentials are to be terminated, the district shall recommend to The Credentials Committee of The Council of the Assemblies of God that his name be removed from the official list of ministers, in accordance with Section 7 of this article.

Such recommendations shall set forth in writing satisfactory reasons for the action. Copies of these charges and recommendations shall be forwarded to the said credentials committee, to the minister involved, and to the superintendent of his home district. Thirty days from the date of the notification of the district decision shall be allowed for the accused to request a trial. He shall be apprised officially of this right at the time the district decision is made.

"The said credentials committee shall be authorized to comply with the request of the district if, in its judgment, the district was justified in the action taken. If the said credentials committee finds that justice has not been served, it may refer the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. Disposition of the case shall await further report from the district.

"Section 9. Rehabilitation.

When it has been determined, either by a confession of the minister involved, or by deliberation of the district presbytery that there is a cause for disciplinary action as a result of a violation of Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Article IX, Section 2, it shall then be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine whether or not the offense warrants expulsion from the Fellowship by dismissal or restoration to good standing in the Fellowship through a program of rehabilitation. Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes best be served with mercy; therefore, the following provision for rehabilitation shall apply:

"1. Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Article IX, Section 2) shall be subject to a period of rehabilitation.

"2. The period of rehabilitation shall be not less than one year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Section 2a in which it shall be for not less than two years.

"3. That the following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements of rehabilitation for the individual minister:

"a. The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation, and his credentials shall be held in the district office.

"The extent to which he may be permitted to minister, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery. Certain offenses may not require complete cessation of ministerial activities, although some restrictions or limitations may be warranted.

"b. The minister must remain a member of the district during the period of rehabilitation. While his credentials are in a state of suspension, his name shall not be published as removed from the ministerial roster. In the event his ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church, working under the supervision of a pastor and presbyter.

"c. The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

"d. The rehabilitation record shall not accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district and the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

"e. When the rehabilitation period is satisfactorily completed, the minister shall be considered in good standing and his credentials restored.

"f. The terms of rehabilitation as above stated shall be administered at the discretion of the district presbytery.

"g. During the period of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as Ministers Group Insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

"4. In the event a minister who has been "dismissed" shall later show repentance and indicate his desire for reinstatement, he shall, upon obtaining the approval of the district presbytery, enter the two-year rehabilitation program with the provision that he shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements of the program have been satisfactorily completed.

ADDENDUM

"It should be further realized that rehabilitation involves not only helping a brother to recover from misconduct, but also to help him find the cause(s) which produced the misconduct, in the hope that he will be able to avoid or overcome a similar situation in the future. In addition to providing the minister with counsel and supervision from mature, senior ministers, serious consideration should be given to recommending that he receive professional help when deemed advisable by the district presbytery."

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions Report

The report was presented by the General Secretary, Bartlett Peterson. He gave a brief resume of the purpose, organization, and format of the report which had been mailed to all ordained ministers prior to the convening of the Council. The report contained a flow chart which provided a visual regrouping of the departments as recommended by the Executive Presbytery and unanimously adopted by the General Presbytery in a special called meeting in May of 1972. The flow chart is not included in these minutes because of space limitations. The General Presbytery had further instructed the Executive Presbytery to bring forth suggested revisions that could be considered by the 1973 General Council.

Attention was called to the insertion of "20 General Council Affiliated Churches" in the proposed revision of Article V, Section 4, paragraph a. The General Secretary stated that the General Presbytery had agreed to recommend the following change:

"That we recommend to the General Council in Section 4, page 5, the wording be changed to '12 churches' with the provision that this shall apply for the coming two-year period during which time further study shall be made, with the understanding that in the meantime no new foreign language districts shall be formed."

A motion prevailed to adopt the recommendation of the General Presbytery by deleting the words, "20 General Council Affiliated Churches" so that the paragraph will read:

"a. In order to be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God, a foreign language group must have in its group at all times a minimum number of 12 churches. If it does not qualify for recognition as a distinct foreign language district, the pastors and the congregations will find ready acceptance in the fellowship of the geographical districts in which they are located."

An objection was raised to the words "consult with the officials of the geographical districts concerning the opening of new works."

A motion prevailed that further study be made of this with a report to be made to the 1975 General Council.

The General Secretary called attention to the proposed amendments to Article IX, Sections 21 and 22, which provided for an appeals board as called for by the 1971 General Council. He stated a special committee had been assigned to this study and its report had been included by request.

A motion prevailed to adopt the proposed bylaw revisions to effect an appeals board.

It was moved and seconded that the first 15 pages of the report with the amendments concerning the Foreign Language Districts and the action on the Appeals Board, be adopted.

A motion to refer the report for further study to be brought back to the next General Council failed to carry.

The motion to adopt the first 15 pages was voted upon and carried.

A motion prevailed to adopt the next section (pages 18-75) in toto.

It was further moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the report from page 76 to page 80. The report, as amended, follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Item 1:

Article IX. Officers

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

Purpose: To provide terms of office for executive presbyters

Add the following to Section 2, paragraph a:

"The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery, except as stated in Section 1, shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify."

Item 2:

Article XI. Branches

Purpose: To implement referral from the 1971 General Council affecting foreign language branches:

"Foreign Language Branches shall be removed from the supervision of the Home Missions Department and placed on the same basis as other districts as noted under Article V of the Bylaws." (cf. "P", GCM, p. 29)

Delete Article XI and insert a new paragraph c into Article X. District Councils, to read as follows:

"c. A foreign language group may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for District Councils in the bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to ministry among certain language groups, and its geographical areas of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more District Councils." (Cf. Article V of the Bylaws)

The remaining paragraphs in Article X are to be renumbered accordingly.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Purpose: To bring them into structural line with the new plan of organization.

Item 3:

Article V. District Councils

Move appropriate parts of Article XV, Section 6, to Article V and place as Section 4.

It is further proposed to amend Section 6 (Art. XV, p. 156) by deleting the last sentence of paragraph e and inserting instead, "If either the foreign language district or the geographical district has objections . . ." This paragraph will appear as paragraph d in the new Section 4 of Article V. The new proposed Section 4 as edited and amended would read as follows:

"Section 4. Foreign Language Districts

"a. In order to be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God, a foreign language group must have in its group at all times a minimum number of 12 churches. If it does not qualify for recognition as a distinct foreign language district, the pastors and the congregations will find ready acceptance in the fellowship of the geographical districts in which they are located.

"b. A foreign language district shall have the same privileges and responsibilities which are accorded District Councils within the framework of these Constitution and Bylaws.

"c. Both the foreign language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The foreign language officers shall consult with the officials of the geographical district concerning the opening of new works, or institutions of any kind, in a given area. The churches shall unite, where possible, in fellowship activities.

"d. When a church desires to transfer from a foreign language district to the district in which it is located, a church business meeting shall be properly called and the minutes of said meeting shall reflect the action authorized by the congregation. This action shall be submitted to the officers of the foreign language district and the geographical district. If either district has objections, the church shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution (Article XII).

Item 4:

Article III. Duties of Officers

Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent

Purpose: To provide for proper correlation of new concept that General Superintendent and/or Board of Administration shall provide supervisory functions to directors. Cf. GCM, 6. 26.

Insert in paragraph c of Section 1 (Article III) the words "and boards" so that the sentence shall read:

"He shall be an ex officio member of all committees and boards."

Item 5:

Article III. Duties of Officers

Section 7. Duties of the Board of Administration

Purpose: To provide for the areas of General Services at general headquarters.

Insert a new paragraph c as follows:

"c. The Board of Administration shall provide for general services as required for the various operations at general headquarters."
Renumber the present paragraph c as d.

Item 6:

Article IX. Discipline

Section 21. New Trials, and

Section 22. Review by the General Presbytery

Purpose: To provide for an Appeals Board as called for by the 1971 General Council.

Note: A special committee had been assigned to this area of study. Its report is included here by request.

Amend Article IX, Section 21, subsection c by deleting the first paragraph and substituting therefor:

"c. Review by the Appeals Board. The Executive Presbytery on notice of an appeal shall appoint an Appeals Board of seven impartial ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to hear the case and render a decision. Appeal from a trial cannot result in a retrial at the Assemblies of God national headquarters. It shall be the duty of the Appeals Board to review the case, carefully examining the official record of trial."

Sub-section c shall be further amended by deleting "Executive Presbytery" in the last paragraph and substituting therefor "Appeals Board."
The amended subsection c shall then read:

"c. Review by the Appeals Board. The Executive Presbytery on notice of an appeal shall appoint an Appeals Board of seven impartial ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to hear the case and render a decision. Appeal from a trial cannot result in a retrial at the Assemblies of God national headquarters. It shall be the duty of the Appeals Board to review the case, carefully examining the official record of trial."

"All appeals shall be considered on the basis of the record of trial. No person or persons shall have the right to introduce testimony of new evidence at a review of a tried case. All such evidence or testimony must be presented in new trials. The parties involved shall not be present at a review of an appeal, but may file a written brief in summation of trial material with the General Secretary."

"In case the Appeals Board shall rule a mistrial, it shall be the right of that body to which appeal has been made to nullify the decision of the court and to authorize a new trial. The Executive Presbytery shall outline proper procedure."

Amend Section 22 by substituting the words "Appeals Board" for "Executive Presbytery" in the first and last sentences of the section, so that the amended section shall read:

"Section 22. Review by the General Presbytery

"When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Appeals Board, either by the defendant or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery. This appeal shall be addressed to the office of the General Secretary. Procedure in such cases shall conform to that in making appeal from a District Credentials Committee action or a jury trial, and must be made within thirty days following the notification of the decision of the Appeals Board."

Item 7:

Article X. Spiritual Life—Evangelism Commission

Purpose: Edited to eliminate the word "commission" and to include the

concept of a "division" as well as "department." No basic changes are proposed.

The proposed edited Article X would read:

ARTICLE X. SPIRITUAL LIFE—EVANGELISM

Section 1. Authorization and purpose

There shall be a Spiritual Life—Evangelism planning and coordinating office to assist the General Superintendent in implementing the threefold mission of the church. Divisions and departments shall cooperate in this priority effort.

Section 2. Organization

a. This office shall be under the direction of the General Superintendent and amenable to the Executive Presbytery. A Spiritual Life—Evangelism Coordinator shall be nominated by the General Superintendent and appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. There shall be a Committee on Mission to assist in promoting and coordinating efforts to fulfill the threefold mission of the church. The committee shall offer advice, indicate ways in which divisional and departmental resources can be used in fulfilling the mission of the church, and communicate to departments the emphasis which it, or the General Superintendent, places upon each phase of the threefold mission.

c. The Committee on Mission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of the Board of Administration and representatives from the various headquarters ministries. The General Superintendent shall serve as ex officio member and chairman of the Committee on Mission. The Spiritual Life—Evangelism Coordinator shall serve as secretary.

d. Subcommittees of the Committee on Mission shall include the Mobilization and Placement Service Committee, the Evangelism Literature for America Committee, and such other committees as may be required to give full emphasis of the mission of the church. They shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

Section 3. Function

a. The Spiritual Life—Evangelism Office shall serve as an agency to provide leadership and to coordinate efforts through all divisions and departments.

Specific functions shall include:

(Paragraphs a to e remain unchanged.)

Item 8:

Article XI. National Directors

Cf. 1971 General Council Minutes, pages 26, 28, 41, 54, 58

Purpose: It is proposed to insert a new Article (XI) to provide for definition and scope of national director positions.

(Articles following in the bylaws would be renumbered accordingly.)

The proposed new article would read as follows:

"Article XI. National Directors

"Section 1. Purpose and Scope

National directors shall be selected to serve as the heads of the various divisions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as need may require. They shall be responsible to the Executive Presbytery and supervised by the General Superintendent within guidelines set forth by the policy-making bodies. (Cf. p. 26)

"Section 2. Selection

a. The Executive Presbytery shall make a careful survey of the Movement for potential candidates when seeking to fill national director positions. (Cf. p. 26)

(Article II, Section 2, paragraph g, moved to new Article XI. Section 2, paragraph b. Cf. p. 54, p. 111.)

b. The national directors shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery,

subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. Their terms of office shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify.

c. All national directors shall be members of the Assemblies of God. Cf. p. 54, 111

d. The Executive Presbytery shall determine the salaries of the national directors. p. 28.

"Section 3. Duties

The duties of a national director shall include the following:

a. He shall be charged with the operational function of the division in accordance with the job description provided by the Executive Presbytery. p. 26

b. He shall have the prerogative of presenting the programs and budgets of the division in person to the Executive Presbytery for approval. p. 27

c. He shall coordinate the various functions of the departments in such a manner as to provide needed services and ministries for the constituency with efficiency and economy."

DIVISIONAL GROUPING

The committee noted the provision in the bylaws under each article defining the departments to the effect that "the department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery," and offers the following recommendation:

Inasmuch as there is a new level of organization to be known as "division" which encompasses the constituent departments, we recommend that the reference to "being amenable" to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery be included in the bylaws regarding divisions.

Where departments or other structures are not a part of a division we recommend that the reference to "being amenable" be included in the bylaws regarding the department or structure.

It is also recommended that the article on national directors be placed in the bylaws immediately following Article X. Spiritual Life—Evangelism and preceding the divisional groupings.

The following section of this report, therefore, sets forth this regrouping as interpreted by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery.

Item 9:

Article XII. Division of Christian Education

Purpose: To provide for the group of departments under this division.

The proposed new article would read as follows:

"Article XII. Division of Christian Education

a. There shall be a Division of Christian Education which shall have general oversight over the Department of Church School Literature and the Department of Education.

b. The purpose of the division is to correlate the emphases on curriculum development and the training of church leaders.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Christian Education.

d. The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Parts of Sections 1 and 2 of Article XX. Department of Publications have been lifted out of that article and placed under the new Article XII, as Section 1.

"Section 1. Department of Church School Literature

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Church School Literature Department which shall be charged with the responsibility of the preparation of all curricular materials for church schools.

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission."

"subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery" deleted to conform to the new concept of national directors. Cf. Article XX. Section 2, paragraph d. p. 160:

"b. Government and Organization

1) There shall be an editor of church school literature who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery."

2) The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial and curricular content of all publications and periodicals within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies. New materials or changes in style or format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publications before being initiated."

Section 2. Department of Education

Purpose: To renumber the department and fit it into the Division of Christian Education.

(Since the 1971 General Council had referred the configuration of the Board of Education to the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Education, with instructions that a report be made to the 1973 General Council, the Bylaw Revisions Committee felt that perhaps this would more logically appear on the General Council Agenda as an unfinished item of business. The configuration of the board as determined in the joint meeting of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Education on August 12, 1972 is therefore included in this report as information.)

"Section 2. Department of Education

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Department of Education which shall be generally responsible for supervising and promoting those education activities of the Assemblies of God . . .

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

"b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

"2) The government and work of the Department of Education shall be vested in, and committed to the Board of Education, which shall consist of eighteen members to be constituted as follows: The national director of Christian Education, an executive presbyter, one pastor or district officer not associated with the internal administration of an Assembly of God college from each of the eight geographical areas of the United States, two laymen and six presidents of endorsed institutions of higher learning.

"3) The national director shall serve on the Board of Education by virtue of office; the executive presbyter shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery; the eight regional members shall be elected by the general presbyters of the respective areas at called meetings during the annual meeting of the General Presbytery; two laymen shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery; and six presidents shall be appointed to the board by the Executive Presbytery on a rotating basis. One year shall lapse after a term is completed before a president is returned to the board."

There were no further changes recommended for this section, except for renumbering.

The new Division of Christian Education would appear as follows:
ARTICLE XII. DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

a. There shall be a Division of Christian Education which shall have general oversight over the Department of Church School Literature and the Department of Education.

b. The purpose of the division is to correlate the emphases on curriculum development and the training of church leaders.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Christian Education.

d. The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Department of Church School Literature

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Church School Literature Department which shall be charged with the responsibility of the preparation of all curricular materials for church schools.

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

1) There shall be an editor of church school literature who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

2) The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial and curricular content of all publications and periodicals within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies. New materials or changes in style or format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publications before being initiated.

Section 2. Department of Education

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Department of Education which shall be generally responsible for supervising and promoting those education activities of the Assemblies of God which do not usually occur as part of the congregational life of the local church or which have not been constitutionally assigned to other departments of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Such promotion and supervision shall not infringe upon the sovereignty of the various districts and churches.

This responsibility shall include nursery schools, kindergartens, grade schools, high schools, junior colleges, senior colleges, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, graduate schools, correspondence schools, and general ministerial and missionary training.

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

2) The government and work of the Department of Education shall be vested in, and committed to the Board of Education, which shall consist of eighteen members to be constituted as follows: The national director of Christian Education, an executive presbyter, one pastor or district officer not associated with the internal administration of an Assemblies of God college from each of the eight geographical areas of the United States, two laymen and six presidents of endorsed institutions of higher learning.

3) The national director shall serve on the Board of Education by virtue

of office; the executive presbyter shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery; the eight regional members shall be elected by the general presbyters of the respective areas at called meetings during the annual meeting of the General Presbytery; two laymen shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery; and six presidents shall be appointed to the board by the Executive Presbytery on a rotating basis. One year shall lapse after a term is completed before a president is returned to the Board.

4) The members of the Board of 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 national director shall serve as chairman of the Board. It shall conduct its own meetings as occasion may require. The leaders of the schools may be invited to the meetings of the Board of Education with the privilege of the floor even though they may not have the privilege of voting. The Board of Education and the entire Department of Education shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery in all matters.

The remainder of Article XII (Sections 3 and 4) will be moved to this section and renumbered. There are no further changes recommended.

Item 10:

Articles XIII. Division of Church Ministries

Purpose: To provide for the group of departments under this division.

The proposed new article would read as follows:

"Article XIII. Division of Church Ministries

a. There shall be a Division of Church Ministries which shall have general oversight over the following departments: Men, Music, Sunday School, Women's Missionary Council, and Youth.

b. The purpose of the division is to coordinate and correlate local church programs on the national level.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Church Ministries.

d. The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Men's Department (old Article XVII)

Paragraphs renumbered and placed under Article XIII, Section 1.

"Section 1. Men's Department

In paragraph 7 of the present Section 1-b, it is recommended that the word "foreign" be deleted and the words "world missions" be substituted. The new paragraph 7 would then read:

"(7) Participating in sponsoring world missions evangelistic literature crusades and such other programs as may be approved in the future."

Delete present Section 2, paragraph a and insert instead: as paragraph b-1.

"b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division." Amend the present Section 2, paragraph b, to include the department secretary on the Men's Department Committee.

The amended paragraph will then read:

"2) There shall be a Men's Department committee consisting of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Men's Department, the Royal Rangers national commander, the chairman and president of the National Light-for-the-Lost Council, the national Light-for-the-Lost secretary, the national Action Crusades coordinator, the chairman and president of the national Action Crusades Council, and two Royal Rangers national aides-de-camp. The national director shall serve as chairman."

(The above Section 2-b will be placed under Section 1 of Article XIII)
Delete the present paragraph d of Section 2 to conform to new structure.
The remainder of the section will remain the same, except for renumbering.

Section 2. Department of Music is entirely new

Purpose. To provide guidelines for the operation of the Music Department.

Section 2. Department of Music

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Department of Music which shall be responsible for the preparation of music publications and for the encouragement of the ministry of music in the local church. It shall provide music seminars as may be needed.

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) There shall be a Music Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Music Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification by the General Presbytery. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

3) The Music Committee shall serve for a two-year period or until its successors are selected.

4) The preparation of new materials or changes in style and format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publications before being initiated.

Sunday School Department

Old Article XXII

Move to the new Article XIII, Division of Church Ministries, and renumber it Section 3, with corresponding sections numbered accordingly.

Present Section 1 of Article XXII shall be edited and renumbered a

Section 3. Sunday School Department

"a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Sunday School Department which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday schools and other church schools of a nonacademic nature throughout the Fellowship."

(There are no further changes recommended for paragraph a.)

Amend present Section 2-b by the insertion of "the secretary of the Sunday School Department" and by adding "The national director shall serve as chairman." Renumber the paragraph b-2

Delete paragraph d of present Section 2.

"b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) The Sunday School Department Committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Sunday School Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. The national director shall serve as chairman.

No further changes are recommended, except for renumbering.

Women's Missionary Council Department (Old Article XXIII)

This article (XXIII) is to be renumbered and placed as Section 4 under Article XIII, Division of Church Ministries

Under the present Section 2. Government and Organization
It is recommended that paragraph a be deleted, and new paragraph be added and renumbered "b-1"

It is further recommended that paragraph b, Section 2, be amended by the insertion of the words "the secretary of the Women's Missionary Council Department" and renumbered "b-2"

It is further recommended that paragraph d of the present Section 2 be deleted to conform to the new structure pattern.

"Section 4. Women's Missionary Council Department

"a. Authorization and Purpose

(There are no changes recommended for this paragraph except for the renumbering.)

"b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) The Women's Missionary Council Committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Women's Missionary Council Department, one member from the Foreign Missions Division, one member from the Home Missions Division, and two others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

3) The Women's Missionary Council Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are selected.

Funds

Present Section 3

No change recommended except to renumber the section.

Youth Department

Present Article XXV

Renumber present Article XXV, Youth Department to become Section 5 of Article XIII, Division of Church Ministries

Edit to retain "Christ's Ambassadors" as the youth program of the Assemblies of God.

The rest of subsection a shall remain unchanged, except for renumbering.

"Section 5. Youth Department

"a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Youth Department which shall be responsible for the youth work known as Christ's Ambassadors. The department may be responsible for other related youth programs which shall be deemed feasible and desirable."

Present Section 2, paragraph a:

It is recommended that this be deleted and a new paragraph b-1 be inserted instead.

In the present Section 2, paragraphs b and c, delete "Christ's Ambassadors" and insert instead "Youth." Also, insert the words "the secretary of the Youth Department" in paragraph b. Renumber the paragraphs to conform to the new structure.

It is recommended that paragraph d of the present Section 2 be deleted to conform to the new structure.

"b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) The national director of the Church Ministries Division, the secretary of the Youth Department, with three others elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery shall constitute the Youth Committee. At least three members of the above committee shall be appointed from the field at large.

3) The Youth Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are selected."

Official Publication—

Section 3—no change recommended except to renumber.

Under present Section 4.

District Organizations

insert the words "Christ's Ambassadors" so that the title will read:

"District Christ's Ambassadors Organizations." Renumber the section to conform to the new pattern.

"d. District Christ's Ambassadors Organizations

The rest of the paragraph remains unchanged except for renumbering."

Likewise, in Section 5, Local Organizations insert the words "Christ's Ambassadors" so that the title shall read "Local Christ's Ambassadors Organizations."

"e. Local Christ's Ambassadors Organizations

The rest of the paragraph remains unchanged except for renumbering.

The new Division of Church Ministries would appear as follows:

Article XIII. Division of Church Ministries

a. There shall be a Division of Church Ministries which shall have general oversight over the following departments: Men, Music, Sunday School, Women's Missionary Council, and Youth.

b. The purpose of the division is to coordinate and correlate local church programs on the national level.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Church Ministries.

The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Men's Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Men's Department which shall have as its primary responsibility in its field of activity to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

2) The function of this department shall include:

a) Encouraging development of the work of men at the local, district, and national levels of the constituency.

b) Promoting the participation of men in the ministries of the local church.

c) Developing the interest of men in supporting all programs of the Assemblies of God.

e) Coordinating the efforts of the men in local and district organizations within the Assemblies of God.

f) Encouraging and teaching men to engage in personal witnessing for Christ.

g) Organizing and promoting a program for boys.

h) Participating in sponsoring world missions evangelistic literature crusades and such other programs as may be approved in the future.

i) Preparing and publishing handbooks, manuals, and such literature as may be needed to further the fulfilling of the mission of the church by the men of the Assemblies of God.

j) Publicizing the work of the Assemblies of God men.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

2) There shall be a Men's Department committee consisting of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Men's Department, the Royal Rangers national commander, the chairman and president of the national Light-for-the-Lost Council, the national Light-for-the-Lost secretary, the national Action Crusades coordinator, the chairman and president of the national Action Crusades Council, and two Royal Rangers national aides-de-camp. The national director shall serve as chairman.

3) Members of the Men's Committee shall serve for a period of two years, or until their successors are appointed.

Section 2. Department of Music

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Department of Music which shall be responsible for the preparation of music publications and for the encouragement of the ministry of music in the local church. It shall provide music seminars as may be needed.

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) There shall be a Music Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Music Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification by the General Presbytery. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

3) The Music Committee shall serve for a two-year period or until its successors are selected.

4) The preparation of new materials or changes in style and format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publications before being initiated.

Section 3. Sunday School Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Sunday School Department which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday schools and other church schools of a nonacademic nature throughout the Fellowship.

The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission. The purpose of the Sunday School Department shall be:

a) To assist district and local Sunday school organizations in setting up effective programs.

b) To promote and conduct Sunday school conventions on a national and regional basis.

c) To encourage and conduct training programs for teachers and workers.

d) To produce manuals, handbooks, brochures and literature of a promotional nature.

e) To assist in the organization and development of vacation Bible schools and other educational activities of the local church.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a depart-

ment secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) The Sunday School Department Committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Sunday School Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. The national director shall serve as chairman.

3) The Sunday School Department Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are appointed.

c. The Sunday School Counselor

The Sunday School Counselor shall be recognized as the official publication of the Sunday School Department.

d. District Organization

1) Provision shall be made for a district Sunday school department in each district of the Assemblies of God. The purpose shall be

a) To coordinate national, district, sectional, and local efforts for Sunday school efficiency, growth, and development.

b) To encourage every Sunday school in the district to attain to the National Sunday School Standard.

c) To promote Sunday school efficiency through seminars, tours, conventions, or by any other acceptable means.

2) There may be a district Sunday school director. He shall be chosen in keeping with the District constitution and bylaws.

3) There may be a district constitution and bylaws which shall be presented to the district council for approval.

4) Time may be given throughout the year for the advancement of all phases of the district and national Sunday school calendar.

Section 4. Women's Missionary Council Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Women's Missionary Council Department which shall have as its primary responsibility in its field of activities to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

2) The functions of this department shall include:

a) Encouraging development of the work of women at the local, district, and national levels of the Fellowship.

b) Correlating the work of the women with the needs represented by the Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and Benevolences Departments in such a way that the needs may be met quickly and equitably with each district and local group carrying its proportionate share of service.

c) Encouraging district and local groups to view their service as a spiritual ministry and stewardship in which faithfulness is important.

d) Encouraging the women of the fellowship to engage in the ministry of personal witnessing and the ministry of intercessory prayer.

e) Offering encouragement and assistance to district leaders and local groups for organization and operation.

f) Conducting WMC conventions, seminars, and rallies to stimulate interest and disseminate information concerning the Women's Missionary Council and its program.

g) Organizing and promoting a program for girls.

h) Preparing and publishing handbooks and manuals, and issuing such bulletins as may be needed to implement the department program.

i) Publicizing the Women's Missionary Council through the media of The Pentecostal Evangel and other periodicals as opportunity affords.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) The Women's Missionary Council Committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Women's Missionary Council Department, one member from the Foreign Missions Division, one member from the Home Missions Division, and two others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

3) The Women's Missionary Council Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are selected.

c. Funds

1) An annual National Women's Missionary Council Day shall be observed at which time the ministry of the Women's Missionary Council shall be promoted. It is recommended that an offering be received in each church which shall be sent to the national Women's Missionary Council for use in the support of the national office and to aid in costs of services it offers to district and local units.

2) To aid further in support of the work at both district and national levels, it is urged that each local Women's Missionary Council group shall be faithful in tithing its income into the district Women's Missionary Council office and the district Women's Missionary Council office in turn to tithe to the national office.

Section 5. Youth Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Youth Department which shall be responsible for the youth work known as Christ's Ambassadors. The department may be responsible for other related youth programs which shall be deemed feasible and desirable.

2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission: evangelization of the world, worshiping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. In part, it shall fulfill this responsibility by planning and promoting a spiritual program directed toward the youth of the Assemblies of God, encouraging the youth to assist in fulfilling the threefold mission of the Church.

3) The functions of this department shall include:

a) Encouraging and assisting the developing of district young people's programs.

b) Coordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.

c) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of youth.

d) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges;

e) Developing and promoting guidelines for use at the district and local level.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

2) The national director of the Church Ministries Division, the secretary of the Youth Department, with three others elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery shall constitute the Youth Committee. At least three members of the above committee shall be appointed from the field at large.

3) The Youth Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are selected.

c. Official Publication

The official publication of the department shall be "Youth Alive."

d. District Christ's Ambassadors Organizations

1) Groups of local organizations may be formed into district organizations, with the approval of the officers of the District Councils involved. The district organizations shall be governed by the principles of cooperative fellowship and shall be considered as a branch or department of the district council. The District Council officers 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.

2) The manner of election of the district CA president will be according to the provisions of the district constitution and bylaws. He shall be an ordained minister. It is recommended that he will be under the age of thirty-five at the time of his first election, but may be retained as long as his service is desired.

3) A constitution and bylaws covering the activities of the district organization shall be submitted to and approved by the district presbytery.

4) The president of the district organization shall be subject to call by the district presbytery for consultation in matters pertaining to young people.

5) Sectional meetings of the district organization shall be strictly spiritual in character and arranged through the cooperation of the pastors and young people's leaders in each section, taking care not to conflict with other local or district meetings.

e. Local Christ's Ambassadors Organizations

1) 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.

2) The members of this group shall be born-again young people living consistent Christian lives.

3) 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.

4) 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 XXIII World Missions Plan)

Item 11

Article XIV. Division of Communications

Purpose: To provide for the areas grouped under this division.

The proposed new article would read as follows:

Article XIV. Division of Communications

a. There shall be a Division of Communications which shall have general oversight over the following areas: Auxiliary Communications, The Office of Information, The Pentecostal Evangel, and Radio and Television.

b. The purpose of the division shall be to correlate information from general headquarters, both through our periodicals and in the effective use of available communication facilities, such as, radio, television, audiovisual, and recording devices.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Communications.

d. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Auxiliary Communications

a. In order to strengthen the flow of information to all segments of the Fellowship in the most economical and efficient manner, all periodicals of a promotional nature other than those produced at divisional or departmental levels shall be under the general supervision of the Division of Communications.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to employ editors as may be needed.

Section 2. Office of Information

a. There shall be an Office of Information which shall serve as an agency in the dissemination of news about the Assemblies of God to the Fellowship and the general public. This shall include releases to district bulletins, religious magazines, news syndicates, and radio and television stations.

b. The office shall provide services as needed in hosting visitors to general headquarters.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a Secretary of Information who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

Parts of Section 1, paragraph b, Section 2, paragraph d, and all of Section 3, of Article XX, have been moved and edited to appear under Section 3 of the new Article XIV. Division of Communications.

Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) The Pentecostal Evangel shall be the official organ of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be published:

a) To fulfill the threefold mission of the church;

b) To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ;

c) To give proper emphasis to Pentecostal distinctives, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit and its desired effects in the lives of believers;

d) To strengthen the fellowship.

2) The preparation of "The Pentecostal Evangel" shall be a function of the Division of Communications.

b. Government and Organization

1) There shall be an editor of The Pentecostal Evangel who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

2) The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of The Pentecostal Evangel within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies. It is understood that changes in style and format affecting the budget of the Gospel Publishing House shall not be initiated without the approval of the Board of Publications.

Radio Department

Present Article XXI

It is recommended that the Radio Department presently listed as Article XXI be moved to Section 4 of Article XIV. Division of Communications and that the word "television" be added to the title.

Insert the word "television" under the new paragraph a where applicable. Former paragraph a, page 161, no change recommended except to re-number.

Former paragraph b, delete the word "radio" so that the paragraph shall read:

3) Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talents as shall meet the requirements of the department.

Former paragraph c, no change recommended, except to renumber.

Former Section 2, paragraph a: It is recommended that this paragraph be deleted and a new paragraph be inserted and renumbered b-1.

Former Section 2, paragraph b: Amend to include provision for secretary of Radio Department to be included on Radio Committee:

Former paragraph c, no change.

Delete paragraph d of present Section 2.

No further changes are recommended, except for renumbering.

The new section would read as amended:

Section 4. Radio and Television Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Radio and Television Department whose primary responsibility in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

2) It shall prepare a national broadcast . . .

3) Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talents as shall meet the requirements of the department.

4) A transcription library shall be provided. . .

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

2) There shall be a Radio Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the secretary of the Radio Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification by the General Presbytery.

The new Division of Communications would appear as follows:

Article XIV. Division of Communications

a. There shall be a Division of Communications which shall have general oversight over the following areas: Auxiliary Communications, The Office of Information, The Pentecostal Evangel, and Radio and Television.

b. The purpose of the division shall be to correlate information from general headquarters, both through our periodicals and in the effective use of available communication facilities, such as, radio, television, audio-visual, and recording devices.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Communications.

d. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Auxiliary Communications

a. In order to strengthen the flow of information to all segments of the Fellowship in the most economical and efficient manner, all periodicals of a promotional nature other than those produced at divisional or departmental levels shall be under the general supervision of the Division of Communications.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to employ editors as may be needed.

Section 2. Office of Information

a. There shall be an Office of Information which shall serve as an agency in the dissemination of news about the Assemblies of God to the Fellowship and the general public. This shall include releases to district bulletins, religious magazines, news syndicates, and radio and television stations.

b. The office shall provide services as needed in hosting visitors to general headquarters.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a Secretary of Information who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) "The Pentecostal Evangel" shall be the official organ of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be published:

a) To fulfill the threefold mission of the church;

b) To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ;

c) To give proper emphasis to Pentecostal distinctives, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit and its desired effects in the lives of believers; and

d) To strengthen the fellowship.

2) The preparation of "The Pentecostal Evangel" shall be a function of the Division of Communications.

b. Government and Organization

1) There shall be an editor of "The Pentecostal Evangel" who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

2) The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of "The Pentecostal Evangel" within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies. It is understood that changes in style and format affecting the budget of the Gospel Publishing House shall not be initiated without the approval of the Board of Publications.

Section 4. Radio and Television Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

1) There shall be a Radio and Television Department whose primary responsibility in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

2) 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.

3) Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talents as shall meet the requirements of the department.

4) 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.

b. Government and Organization

1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

2) There shall be a Radio and Television Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the secretary of

the Radio and Television Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification by the General Presbytery.

3) The Radio and Television Committee shall serve a two-year period or until its successors are appointed.

c. Funds

The national director shall be authorized to employ such means for the raising of funds as shall be deemed advisable by the Radio and Television Committee.

Item 12

Foreign Missions Department

Article XIV

Purpose: To conform the Foreign Missions Department to the new pattern. It is recommended that the title and number be changed to read:

Article XV. Division of Foreign Missions

It is further recommended that the Article be edited throughout to substitute the word "division" for "department" where applicable.

A further recommendation would eliminate the phrase "subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery" in paragraph b of Section 2. The paragraph would then read:

b. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a secretary of the Foreign Missions Division who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

There are no further changes recommended except for editing.

Item 13

Home Missions Department

Article XV

Purpose: To conform this article to the new structure pattern and to incorporate the sense of the 1971 General Council in its actions relative to Home Missions.

It is recommended that the word "division" be substituted for "department" where applicable. Delete the word "division" in areas as indicated.

Article XVI. Division of Home Missions

Section 1. Authorization and Scope

Section 1, paragraph b

Add the phrase "the essential function being the establishing of new churches through the auspices of the district councils." Change "department" to "division."

The paragraph would then read:

"b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission, the essential function being the establishing of new churches through the auspices of the district councils."

Delete present wording and add instead, "(1) New Church Evangelism

Delete and add instead: "Ministry among those people in the United States who are in need of special help by reason of cultural barriers, handicaps, or geographical isolation."

Section 1, paragraph c (3): Delete.

Section 2. Government and Organization

Change the word "department" to "division" in paragraph b.

Section 2. Government and Organization

Renumber present paragraph f, e; insert a new paragraph f to read as follows:

"f. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Home Missions Committee consisting of the national director as chairman, and four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery."

Move the present paragraph e to g and renumber the section accordingly.

Section 3. Church Extension Division

Change "division" to "department" and substitute the following for Section 3:

"Section 3: New Church Evangelism Department

a. The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various district councils."

b. Practical aid shall be provided through:

1) Development and promotion of a fund from which grants may be provided to the various districts for establishing new churches.

2) Development of new church financing.

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

4) Promotion of an intern program whereby schools of the Assemblies of God may provide assistance for new church evangelism.

c. The division shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in new church evangelism may be refined and offered to other districts.

Section 4. Special Ministries Division

Delete present Section 4 and add instead:

"Section 4. Special Ministries Department

a. Work in the field of special ministries shall function in cooperation with the various districts. This shall include ministry in the specific areas listed in Section 1, paragraph c-2. The Home Missions Division shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds. The supervision and administration of the work in the special ministries field shall be committed to the districts where the works are located.

b. Teen Challenge ministries shall be under the direction of a Teen Challenge representative. His duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraph a of this Section 4. There shall be a proper liaison between this function and the Teen Challenge work which is carried on overseas under the auspices of the Foreign Missions Division.

c. All other work in the special ministries field shall be combined in one section under the direction of a special ministries representative.

d. Special ministries representatives shall be amenable to the national director of the Home Missions Division.

e. National home missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Board with the approval of their home district and the district in which the missionaries will be working. These appointments are subject to renewal annually. All missionary appointments and the annual renewals thereof shall be made according to the provisions of the criteria established for that purpose.

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

Section 5. Finances—change to Section 6 and add a new Section 5

The new Section 5 will be entitled "Department of Chaplains" to read as follows:

"Section 5. Department of Chaplains

"a. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy

1) The industrial and institutional chaplaincy shall function under the supervision of the Home Missions Committee.

2) The ministry of this section will concern itself with the work of chaplains in industries and institutions.

3) The Home Missions Division shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

"b. Military Chaplaincy

1) The military chaplaincy shall function under the military chaplaincy

commission which shall consist of a chairman and five others appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The national director of the Home Missions Division shall be a member of the commission by virtue of his office. The term of office for the members of the commission shall be for two years. The commission shall operate within the guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery.

2) The basic function of the military chaplaincy shall include:

a) Work among servicemen. (It shall be understood that there shall be a proper liaison between the servicemen's work and that which is related to the servicemen's ministry overseas under the auspices of the Foreign Missions Division.)

b) Work among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.

c) Responsibility for processing applications for candidates for the military chaplaincy and extending ecclesiastical endorsement.

d) Responsibility for receiving support from the various chaplains for the operation of the section on the military chaplaincy.

e) Responsibility for seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and to encourage them in entering open doors of ministry.

"c. Chaplains Representative

There shall be a chaplains representative to assist in the operation of the section who shall be nominated by the Commission on Chaplains and ratified by the Executive Presbytery

The new Division of Home Missions would appear as follows:

Article XVI. Division of Home Missions

Section 1. Authorization and Scope

a. 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 Division.

b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission, the essential function being the establishing of new churches through the auspices of the district Councils.

c. The work of the division shall include

1) New Church Evangelism

2) Ministry among those people in the United States who are in need of special help by reason of cultural barriers, handicaps, or geographical isolation.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

b. The Home Missions Division shall be under the supervision of a Home Missions Board which shall consist of the national director, one member of the Board of Administration, two nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery, and eight other ministers selected, one from each of the eight established geographical areas of the Fellowship. Four of the national board members shall be selected from among those district officials who have assigned to them the portfolio of District Home Missions Director.

c. The members of the Home Missions Board shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

d. A term of office shall be for two years, and so arranged that one half of the terms expire annually.

e. It shall be the responsibility of the Home Missions Board to evaluate home missions policies, to offer guidance and counsel in all areas of home missions ministries, to establish standards for appointed home missionaries and home missions institutions, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to field and department decisions.

f. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Home Missions Committee consisting of the national director as chairman, and four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

g. National representatives to serve in specific areas of home missions work may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery as it becomes advisable and practical.

h. The work of the Home Missions Division shall be under the general oversight of, and amenable to, the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. New Church Evangelism Department

a. The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various districts.

b. Practical aid shall be provided through,

1) Development and promotion of a fund from which grants may be provided to the various districts for establishing new churches.

2) Development of new church financing.

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

4) Promotion of an intern program whereby schools of the Assemblies of God may provide assistance for new church evangelism.

c. The division shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in new church evangelism may be refined and offered to other districts.

Section 4. Special Ministries Department

a. Work in the field of special ministries shall function in cooperation with the various districts. This shall include ministry in the specific areas listed in Section 1, paragraph c-2. The Home Missions Division shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds. The supervision and administration of the work in the special ministries field shall be committed to the districts where the works are located.

b. Teen Challenge ministries shall be under the direction of a Teen Challenge representative. His duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraph a of this Section 4. There shall be a proper liaison between this function and the Teen Challenge work which is carried on overseas under the auspices of the Foreign Missions Division.

c. All other work in the special ministries field shall be combined in one section under the direction of a special ministries representative.

d. Special ministries representatives shall be amenable to the national director of the Home Missions Division.

e. National home missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Board with the approval of their home district and the district in which the missionaries will be working. These appointments are subject to renewal annually. All missionary appointments and the annual renewals thereof shall be made according to the provisions of the criteria established for that purpose.

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

Section 5. Department of Chaplains

a. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy

1) The industrial and institutional chaplaincy shall function under the supervision of the Home Missions Committee.

2) The ministry of this section will concern itself with the work of chaplains in industries and institutions.

3) The Home Missions Division shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

b. Military Chaplaincy

1) The military chaplaincy shall function under the military chaplaincy commission which shall consist of a chairman and five others appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The national director of the Home Missions Division shall be a member of the commission by virtue of his office. The term of office for the members of the commission shall be for two years.

The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery.

2) The basic function of the military chaplaincy shall include:

a) Work among servicemen. (It shall be understood that there shall be a proper liaison between the servicemen's work and that which is related to the servicemen's ministry overseas under the auspices of the Foreign Missions Division.)

b) Work among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.

c) Responsibility for processing applications for candidates for the military chaplaincy and extending ecclesiastical endorsement.

d) Responsibility for receiving support from the various chaplains for the operation of the section on the military chaplaincy.

e) Responsibility for seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and to encourage them in entering open doors of ministry.

c. Chaplains Representative

There shall be a chaplains representative to assist in the operation of the section who shall be nominated by the Commission on Chaplains and ratified by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Finances—no changes recommended.

Item 14

Department of Publications

Article XX

Purpose: To conform the department to the new structure pattern.

Edit article to substitute the word "division" for "department" where applicable, and renumber as needed.

Following the removal of the preparation of church school literature materials and The Pentecostal Evangel to the Divisions of Christian Education and Communications, respectively, the Article was edited and it appears as recommended:

Article XVII. Division of Publication

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. There shall be a Division of Publication which shall serve the Fellowship and to which shall be committed the management and operation of the Gospel Publishing House. The responsibilities of the Gospel Publishing House shall include the publication and distribution of The Pentecostal Evangel, curricular material and other literature for church schools, and such other periodicals and publications as may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

It is recommended that the present Section 2-c be deleted and responsibility for all editorial and curricular content of all publications be placed with the entire Executive Presbytery. Cf. page 180.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

b. The division shall consist of the Department of Marketing and Distribution and the Department of Production, which shall be supervised by a manager of each selected by the Executive Presbytery.

c. There shall be a Board of Publications which shall have the general oversight over the publishing interests of the General Council. It shall be concerned with the cost and earning factors of all areas affecting publications and shall exercise discretionary powers in the budgetary affairs of the Division of Publication. The Board of Publications shall function within the framework of the guidelines established by the Executive Presbytery for the editorial and curriculum content of all publications and periodicals.

It is recommended that "subject to the approval of the General Presbytery" be deleted in Section 2-d to conform to the new pattern. Cf. Present Article XX, Section 2-b, page 159.

d. The Board of Publications shall consist of the national director of the Division of Publication, the general superintendent, the general treasurer, and two additional members from among the executive presbytery or the national directors, who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery. The national director of the Division of Publication shall serve as chairman. The Board of Publications shall meet monthly. It shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

e. Committees shall be named as necessary in carrying on the work of the division. They shall be nominated by the national director of the Division of Publication and ratified by the Board of Publications. All committee decisions shall be reported to the Board of Publications for approval and authorization. They shall be amenable to the Board of Publications.

(Change present paragraph e to f)

f. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel, edited and moved to Division of Communications. Section 4. Gospel Publishing House has been renumbered Section 3.)

Section 3. The Gospel Publishing House

The Gospel Publishing House, its plant and equipment, its general business interests, and the promotion and production of all salable periodicals and publications, shall be under the supervision of the Division of Publication and shall be operated in such a manner that it shall make an optimum contribution to the fulfillment of the threefold mission of the Church.

The new Division of Publication would appear as follows:

Article XVII. Division of Publication

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. There shall be a Division of Publication which shall serve the Fellowship and to which shall be committed the management and operation of the Gospel Publishing House. The responsibilities of the Gospel Publishing House shall include the publication and distribution of The Pentecostal Evangel, curricular material and other literature for church schools, and such other periodicals and publications as may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

b. The division shall consist of the Department of Marketing and Distribution and the Department of Production, which shall be supervised by a manager of each selected by the Executive Presbytery.

c. There shall be a Board of Publications which shall have the general oversight over the publishing interests of the General Council. It shall be concerned with the cost and earning factors of all areas affecting publications and shall exercise discretionary powers in the budgetary affairs of the Division of Publication. The Board of Publications shall function within the framework of the guidelines established by the Executive Presbytery for the editorial and curriculum content of all publications and periodicals.

d. The Board of Publications shall consist of the national director of the Division of Publication, the general superintendent, the general treasurer, and two additional members from among the executive presbytery or the national directors, who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery. The national director of the Division of Publication shall serve as chairman. The Board of Publications shall meet monthly. It shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

e. Committees shall be named as necessary in carrying on the work of the

division. They shall be nominated by the national director of the Division of Publication and ratified by the Board of Publications. All committee decisions shall be reported to the Board of Publications for approval and authorization. They shall be amenable to the Board of Publications.

f. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 3. The Gospel Publishing House

The Gospel Publishing House, its plant and equipment, its general business interests, and the promotion and production of all salable periodicals and publications, shall be under the supervision of the Division of Publication and shall be operated in such a manner that it shall make an optimum contribution to the fulfillment of the threefold mission of the church.

Item 15

Benevolences Department

Article XI

Purpose: To establish direction for the department under the new pattern.

Article XVIII. Department of Benevolences

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose (No change recommended)

Section 2. Government and Organization

Delete paragraph a and insert instead,

"a. The Benevolences Department shall function under the direction of the general treasurer."

Add a new paragraph b, as follows:

"b. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the general treasurer."

Change the present paragraph b to c and amend as follows:

"c. The department shall be administered by a committee consisting of the general treasurer, the secretary of the Department of Benevolences, and three others who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

The remaining paragraphs of Section 2 shall be renumbered accordingly.

Section 3. Benevolence Funds (No change recommended)

Section 3. Benevolence Funds (No change recommended)

Amend Section 5 to read as follows:

"Section 5. Homes for the Aged and Children

"Benevolent institutions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be operated by boards of directors nominated by the Benevolences Committee and ratified by the Executive Presbytery. These boards shall be responsible to the Benevolences Department in matters of policy and administration, and their actions shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. District Council Benevolent Institutions (No change recommended)

The new Department of Benevolences would appear as follows:

Article XVIII. 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 Benevolences Department shall function under the direction of the general treasurer.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the general treasurer.

c. The department shall be administered by a committee consisting of the general treasurer, the secretary of the Department of Benevolences, and three others who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

d. The Benevolences Department Committee shall serve for a period of two years, or until its successors are selected.

e. The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

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. Only ministers who are in good standing may be considered.

b. The applicant shall have reached the age of sixty-five in the case of an ordained minister, or sixty in the case of a widow of a minister.

c. Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

d. The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least ten years immediately prior to retirement.

e. The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

f. Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officer.

Section 5. Homes for the Aged and Children

Benevolent institutions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be operated by boards of directors nominated by the Benevolences Committee and ratified by the Executive Presbytery. These boards shall be responsible to the Benevolences Department in matters of policy and administration, and their actions shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. District Council Benevolent Institutions

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

Item 16

There are no changes recommended for the following articles. It is recommended that they be inserted in the bylaws immediately following "Article XVIII. Department of Benevolences" and be renumbered in the order as indicated:

Article XIX. Department of Finance

Article XX. Institutions

Central Bible College

Section 2.

Purpose: To reconstitute the Board of Directors of Central Bible College in conformance to the recommendation of the Organizational Structure Study Committee and adopted by the 1971 General Council.

This has been assigned to a special study committee and will come as a referral from the General Presbytery in a separate report.

Article XXI. Military Service

Article XXII. Ministers Benefit Association

Article XXIII. World Missions Plan

Article XXIV. Order of Business

Article XXV. Quorum

Article XXVI. Amendments

A motion that the secretary be authorized to edit the minutes and eliminate all references to the previous question was seconded and carried.

A motion was made and seconded that we send the general superintendent and his wife, and also the assistant general superintendent and his wife, on a two-weeks paid vacation at the end of this council. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded that we send messages to the President and Vice-President of the United States, letting them know we are praying for them. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion prevailed that the general secretary and his wife be included in the two-weeks paid vacation.

A motion prevailed that the Executive Presbytery be authorized to approve and publish the minutes of this session.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the 35th General Council. Those in favor were asked to arise.

The general superintendent expressed appreciation for the very high level of statesmanship in the debate and discussion and also for the understanding of the body with regard to the Chair. Appreciation was also expressed to the Parliamentary Committee and to the recorders who served with the general secretary.

The Doxology was sung and T. F. Zimmerman dismissed with prayer at 12:40 p.m. "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again'" was sung.

The 35th General Council stood adjourned sine die at 12:45 p.m., August 21, 1973.

BARTLETT PETERSON
General Secretary

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

August 21, 1973

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning man is 1) to seek and to save that which is lost, 2) to be worshiped by man, and 3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son.

That these believers saved and called out of the world 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 cornerstone.

That the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves 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.

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

That the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

That the Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ. That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal Assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States and foreign lands to

to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither 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 fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name shall be *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, which term is reserved for legal use when referring to the legal entity.

The term *General Council* shall be used to refer to sessions of the corporation.

The term *Assemblies of God* shall be used to refer to the entire constituency.

ARTICLE II. NATURE

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

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. 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.
- f. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct; and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.
- g. 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 FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Assemblies of God shall represent as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures. It shall recognize the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these prin-

ciples will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

ARTICLE V

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this 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 Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 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 Cooperation 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 cooperation. 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, cooperation 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. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4).
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

(b) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our shar-

ing 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 Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15, 16)

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:5)

10. The Church and Its Mission

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 Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3, 4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24), (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

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; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51, 52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the

saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the 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 offices and District Councils.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained ministers holding accredited fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Assemblies of God

The membership of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ministers of the Assemblies of God and all other persons who are members of churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and its District Councils.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a General Council shall be composed of all accredited members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, and of such representatives, present and registered, as may be chosen by the churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, each church being entitled to one delegate.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

a. Regular sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of

God shall be held biennially, pursuant to a call by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God may be arranged by the Executive Presbytery if agreed to by a majority of the general presbyters.

c. The right of initiative in the matter of calling 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

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. The officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer, together with such other officers as may be authorized in the future. Their terms of office shall begin three months after the date of election. The term of office for the general superintendent shall continue for four years or until his successor qualifies. The terms of office for all other officers shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify.

b. The executive officers shall constitute a Board of Administration.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

a. The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Foreign Missions, together with eight other brethren to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to thirteen. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery, except as stated in Section 1, shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute a Board of Directors, performing such functions as usual and customary in the use of the term. Executive Presbytery and Board of Directors shall be interchangeable terms and wherever used shall be inclusive one of the other.

Section 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. The General Presbytery shall be the official policy making body of

the General Council when the General Council is not in session. Each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members, the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately.

All members of the Executive Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the field secretaries of the Foreign Missions Division and by two others from each of the overall 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 have served on the General Presbytery for 20 years, or more, and have reached the age of 60, and 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 officials of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. A foreign language group may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to ministry among certain language groups, and its geographical area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more District Councils. (Cf. Article V of the Bylaws)

d. 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 of the Assemblies of God 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 of the Assemblies of God.

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

f. The District Council, being the creature of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and subordinate thereto, cannot be authorized, in any way, to violate the principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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 cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

All true believers accepting the Assemblies of God tenets of faith and 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 cooperate 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 a District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The local assembly shall recognize that a District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary.

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 of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help

from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the local assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

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

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted at least six months prior thereto in writing to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit such proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall cause notice thereof to be provided by mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary, and by insertion in the "Assemblies of God Minister" sent periodically to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God not later than sixty days prior to said session. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

The work of the General Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of "Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised," in keeping with the Spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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 of the Assemblies of God and shall be men of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

Section 2. Nomination and Election

a. All candidates for office of General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, and General Secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot has been cast, the fifteen 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. 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 meetings.

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. The nominations for eight nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each District Council shall at its annual meeting prior to the General Council Session nominate one minister from its district to be presented to the General Council as a nominee from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and to elect.

d. For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into eight areas, according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

Northwest Area: Alaska, Northwest, Oregon, Montana, Southern Idaho, Wyoming

Southwest Area: Northern California-Nevada, Southern California, Arizona, Rocky Mountain, Hawaii

North Central Area: Iowa, Northern Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

South Central Area: Kansas, New Mexico, West Texas, Oklahoma, North Texas, South Texas

Great Lakes Area: Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Appalachian

Gulf Area: Southern Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi

Northeast Area: Northern New England, Southern New England, Eastern, New Jersey, New York, Potomac

Southeast Area: Alabama, West Florida, Peninsular Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina

Branches: Members of the foreign language branches shall vote in the area wherein they reside.

Missionaries: Missionaries on furlough shall vote with their home districts.

e. The General Treasurer 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 this strategic post and shall select by secret ballot one or more names for this office to be presented to the General Council in session for election. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election.

f. The Executive Director of Foreign Missions shall be elected 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 this strategic post and shall select by secret ballot one or more names 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 of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council, with the exception that in the event of death or incapacity of the general superintendent the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council.

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.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent

a. To emphasize and implement the threefold mission of the Church: Evangelization of the world, worshiping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and by promoting and coordinating efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.

b. To be general superintendent of all work on the field conducted in behalf of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. To supervise all the work of the general office. To act as president of the corporation in all legal matters. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.

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

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

f. To preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration, and to receive all communications directed to these bodies.

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

h. He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents. He shall be authorized to perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendent

a. To assist the general superintendent.

b. To serve as vice president of the corporation and to preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration in the absence of the general superintendent.

c. To perform any other functions under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, 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 and shall issue credentials under the direction of the Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained and licensed ministers, and assemblies in the Fellowship.

c. He shall act as secretary of the Executive Presbytery, the Board of Administration, 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. He shall perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

e. He shall act as secretary of the Credentials Committee.

Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer

a. To be custodian of all 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 General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Foreign Missions

a. He shall be the executive director of the Foreign Missions Division under the supervision of the Executive Presidency. 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 of the Assemblies of God 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. Act as purchasing agent for missionary supplies.

j. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the General Presidency or the Executive Presidency.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Presidency

a. The executive presbyters shall serve as trustees of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. 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, subject to the provisions of paragraph "h" and "j" of Section 6 and paragraph "a" of Section 8.

b. The Executive Presidency shall have the right and duty of interpreting policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presidency. Such interpretations shall stand as final unless reversed at the next meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.

c. They shall have the right to buy, take, lease or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible, of whatsoever kind, to borrow monies as deemed necessary and to issue bonds of whatsoever kind, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes and to enter into contracts all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

d. To hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.

e. To issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.

f. They shall be authorized to purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.

g. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the Executive Presidency as trustees thereof and the President and the General Secretary shall be authorized and they hereby are authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.

h. In all matters of great importance, the Executive Presidency shall communicate with the members of the General Presidency before final action shall be taken. The Executive Presidency shall be amenable to the General Presidency.

i. 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.

j. The executive presbyters shall also at their discretion call business meetings of the General Presidency when deemed advisable.

k. 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 Board of Administration

a. The Board of Administration shall be the executive arm of the Executive Presidency.

b. The Board of Administration shall not originate or interpret policy but shall be confined to the administration of those matters delegated to it by the Executive Presidency.

c. The Board of Administration shall provide for general services as required for the various operations at general headquarters.

d. It shall be responsible to the Executive Presidency.

Section 8. Duties of the General Presidency

a. The General Presidency 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. Should an irreconcilable difference arise between the General Presidency and the Executive Presidency, the decision of the General Presidency shall prevail until such time as the issue may be submitted to the General Council. All decisions pertaining to constitutional order or fundamental doctrines shall be referred to the General

Council for ratification in the manner provided in the Constitution.

b. Any twelve members of the General Presbytery shall have the prerogative of calling a special session of the General Presbytery by presenting a signed request to the General superintendent who shall determine the time of such meeting in consultation with the Executive Presbytery.

c. Any District Council by the action of its District Presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.

d. 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.

e. The General Presbytery shall determine the salaries and/or allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of five general presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. It shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action.

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

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute a Credentials Committee. It shall have authority to issue certificates of ordination to approved ministers, who have District Council endorsement, and to issue annual fellowship certificates. It may delegate the routine work of the Credentials Committee to the Board of Administration.

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 minis-

ters, such badges to indicate the classification of ordained ministers, foreign missionaries, licensed ministers, delegates from assemblies, visitors, etc.

Section 4. Other Committees

Other committees may be appointed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS

Section 1. Boundaries

The boundaries of the district shall be determined or rearranged by cooperative agreement between the districts and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Officers

Each District Council shall be authorized to elect a 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.

Section 4. Foreign Language Districts

a. In order to be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God, a foreign language group must have in its group at all times a minimum number of 12 churches. If it does not qualify for recognition as a distinct foreign language district, the pastors and the congregations will find ready acceptance in the fellowship of the geographical districts in which they are located.

b. A foreign language district shall have the same privileges and responsibilities which are accorded district councils within the framework of these Constitution and Bylaws.

c. Both the foreign language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The foreign language officers shall consult with the officials of the geographical district concerning the opening of new works, or institutions of any kind, in a given area. The churches shall unite, where possible, in fellowship activities.

d. When a church desires to transfer from a foreign language district to the district in which it is located, a church business meeting shall be properly called and the minutes of said meeting shall reflect the action authorized by the congregation. This action shall be submitted to the officers of the foreign language district and the geographical district. If either district has ob-

jections, the church shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Membership Certificates

The General Office shall issue a Certificate of Affiliation to each church coming into the Fellowship. The certificate shall be appropriate in size and appearance for framing.

Section 2. Annual Reports from Assemblies

Each church of the Assemblies of God shall be requested to keep an up-to-date record of its membership and a report of the same shall be sent annually on forms provided to the office of the District Secretary and the General Council Secretary.

Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies

a. 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 those persons not known to them, and the platform be denied strangers until proper recommendations be forthcoming.

b. Since the use of non-Assemblies of God evangelists may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship, it is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God evangelists.

c. The advice and counsel of the District Presbytery should be sought in all matters of importance. Pastors, presbyters, and district officials should maintain a reciprocal exchange of information relative to unreliable persons seeking ministry in our assemblies.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7, 8).

In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized, viz., the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the Christian worker. An applicant for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5) and to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable him to fulfill the threefold mission of the Church (Article V, par. 10 of the Constitution).

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 license shall be in two categories:

(1) Preaching Ministry

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. They shall preach at least twenty times a year, except in case of ill health and infirmity.

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

(2) Specialized ministry

An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, youth, music, or other full-time ministries. The same spiritual qualifications shall apply as outlined in Article VII. Section 1.

c. Efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service may be recognized as Christian workers. They shall preach at least twelve times a year except in case of ill health or infirmity.

Section 3. Licenses and Christian Workers Certificates

Licenses and Christian Workers 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. Mature 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. We disapprove of district councils granting credentials to married persons in cases where either the applicant or the married partner has a former companion living (See Article VIII, Section 5e).

c. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

Section 6. Certificates

Ordination papers with the accompanying fellowship certificates shall be issued by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Fellowship certificates are renewable annually and are valid only until January 31 of each year.

Section 7. Expiration of Fellowship Certificates

Inasmuch as all fellowship certificates expire on the 31st day of January of each year, all who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before March 1, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent. The credentials of those who do not avail themselves of this grace period will be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of January 31 and their names shall not appear on the ministerial list to be mailed to the clergy bureaus. Ministers who fail to renew their credentials within the stated time and allow them to lapse shall be assessed the cost of having them renewed. Ministers who have not renewed by April 30 shall apply for reinstatement and pay a \$10 reinstatement fee.

Section 8. Official List

a. An official list of all ordained ministers shall be compiled

by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and published for the convenience of all concerned. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose certificates of fellowship have been issued for the current year.

b. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry for a period of one year or more shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary. He 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 a year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for one year. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year, their names shall be eliminated from the ministerial list. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by the infirmity of old age or ill health, or those engaged in other aspects of 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 application bearing the endorsement of the district officary.

Section 9. Superannuated Ministers

Superannuation shall designate a status of honor and respect for a minister who has given years of service to the Fellowship.

a. An ordained minister who reaches sixty-five years of age, and who is no longer engaged in full-time ministry, shall be indicated as superannuated upon his request, or the request of his district.

b. His status as a minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his credentials shall take place in the regular manner.

c. He shall not be expected to make financial contributions to the national executive office in the same manner as those engaged in active ministry.

Section 10. Ministerial Relations

a. All ministers holding credentials shall be amenable to both the District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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 cooperation with the same. In the case where a minister resides in one district but pastors a church located in another district, he shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located. Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily.

Section 11. Certificate of Transfer

When a minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within sixty days by the district of which he is a member, unless there are definite charges pending against him. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which he moves. Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at general headquarters, for those who are retired from active ministry, for those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty, for those who are serving on the faculties of our schools, for those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home districts, for evangelists residing outside their home districts, and for students in schools outside of their home districts.

In order to assist a minister who is transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning him and his wife should accompany the Certificate of Transfer.

Section 12. Privileged Communications

Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant or to prevent the commission of a crime.

ARTICLE VIII. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

Section 1. Unconditional Security

In view of the Biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14), in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19), and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13), The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of Conscience

The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as the eating or not eating of meats, who press their personal opinions on others.

b. Adding Conditions to Salvation

The Assemblies of God also disapproves of those who hold to issues which seem to add conditions to salvation, such as the keeping of the seventh day, who press their opinions on others.

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

a. The Restitution of All Things

The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a Date 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 (Mark 13:32, 33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. Post-Tribulation Rapture

The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended 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 complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the Rapture of the saints.

d. Amillennialism

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000 years' reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

We recommend that should any of our ministers embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors, they refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected. (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thess. 5:9, 10; 2 Thess. 1:4-10; Rev. 3:10; 19, 20.)

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 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 (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 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 (Ephesians 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 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

(1) 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 people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17,20,24).

(2) We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

b. Remarriage

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 divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

c. Local Church Leadership

(1) Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.

(2) It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

d. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

(1) We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "b." Any minister of our fellowship who performs a ceremony for a disapproved marriage (indicated above), unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship. An Assemblies of God minister is required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony. He may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

(2) We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances be in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph "b," could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

e. Ministerial Credentials

We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living. (See, also, Article VII, Section 5, paragraphs "b" and "c.")

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. . . . For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15, 16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns

against: Participation in activity which defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of, or preoccupation with, pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21: 34, 35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

- (1) 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 be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.
- (2) 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 necessarily should belong to the pastor for his support.

b. Solicitation of Funds

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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 Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the district must have the authorization of the district officer.

Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

- (3) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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.

c. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions

The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by 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, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation taking into consideration equity that the title holder may legitimately have.

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

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural discipline as an offender by the district officer or by the Executive Presbytery. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual fellowship certificates, and may be the basis for their recall.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the church, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work. We recommend, therefore, that our ministers confer with District Council officials before engaging in ministry in a church not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such church is approved as to doctrinal standards and cooperative fellowship. If the church does not have

district approval, ministers shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church.

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 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed from the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, 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. The offenders shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ministers or churches participating in any of the modern ecumenical organizations on a local, national, or international level in such a manner as to promote the Ecumenical Movement, because

a. We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it includes people who reject the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, and other cardinal teachings which we understand to be essential to Biblical Christianity.

b. We believe the emphases of the Ecumenical Movement to be at variance with what we hold to be Biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual salvation with social concerns.

c. We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a World Super Church will culminate in the Religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18.

(This is not to be interpreted to mean that a limitation may be imposed upon any Assemblies of God minister regarding his Pentecostal witness or participation on a local level with interdenominational activities.)

ARTICLE IX. DISCIPLINE

A. District Action

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the

minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local Assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

Section 2. Causes for Disciplinary Action

Violation of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Among such causes for action shall be:

a. Any conduct unbecoming to a minister or indiscretions involving morals.

b. General inefficiency in the ministry.

c. A failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.

d. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.

e. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.

f. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.

g. A declared open change in doctrinal views.

h. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.

i. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 5-d and e)

j. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 8)

k. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 9)

l. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship (Article VIII, Section 10)

Section 3. Initiative

Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials. The officary of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline. Reports or complaints against a minister, alleging violations of Assemblies of God principles (Article IX, Section 2), filed with the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation and such action as the revealed facts may warrant. A copy shall be sent the minister's home district.

If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred, for some reason, cannot take action, the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which he minister is affiliated. In the event the district fails to take action within ninety days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to see that action is initiated.

Section 4. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

a. When a report or complaint of alleged violations by a minister is received, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, and/or an appointed representative, shall make an investigation, having in mind that it is his responsibility to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. This shall be done to determine the source of the report or complaint. The persons involved shall be interviewed in order to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints, after which the accused minister shall be interviewed. In the event the investigation so warrants, signed complaints shall be filed with the district office by the complainant describing the alleged violation.

b. In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of the Foreign Missions Department, that department shall take the initiative to place complete data in the hands of the home district of the minister involved. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the home district. The Foreign Missions Division shall convey all information available to the home district in the following manner:

(1) At the earliest date after the Foreign Missions Division receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the home district of the minister or missionary, with a copy to the district missionary secretary.

(2) A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying to him all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field secretary of the field involved, and shall be presented to the district superintendent for his use in any action the district may take.

(3) When in the judgment of the Foreign Missions Division or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct) ar-

rangements may be made for the gathering of such.

Section 5. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, members of the district officary making the investigation may prefer charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail of the charges made in keeping with Article IX, Section 2.

Section 6. District Hearing and Discipline

In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be requested to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein: Provided, however, an accused member may be disciplined and found guilty of charges preferred, if he refuses to appear at the hearing, or proof is found of willful neglect on his part to take advantage of his rights and privileges.

If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body.

Section 7. Credentials Terminations

In all cases the minister shall be requested by the district to return to the general secretary's office the credentials which had been issued by that office. Refusal to surrender his Certificate of Ordination and current Fellowship Certificate shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister. Credentials terminations may occur in the following manner:

a. On the initiative of the minister by resignation.

(1) Lapsed. A minister who does not elect to renew his credentials, providing there is no cause for disciplinary action, shall be listed as having "lapsed." His name shall be published in the Ministers Letter as "lapsed."

(2) Resigned. A minister who has elected to remove himself from the Fellowship, and against whom there are no charges

filed, shall be published in the Ministers Letters as "resigned." In the event of the announced desire of a minister to resign from our Fellowship, before action shall have been taken in the matter either by the district or the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, 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 case the evidence warrants contrary action, the minister shall be advised of the findings, and appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken. All information pertaining to the disciplinary action taken against the minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. On the initiative of the district resulting from disciplinary action by dismissal (Cf. Article IX, Section 3)

(1) Dismissal. A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Article IX, Section 2, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the credentials committee. Said discipline shall be administered in brotherly love and kindness in an effort to lead the offending minister through a program of rehabilitation (Article IX, Section 9). In the event the offending minister is found to be unrepentant or unwilling to cooperate with, or otherwise fails in the rehabilitation effort, the minister shall be listed as having been dismissed. His name shall be published as dismissed in the minister's letter known as "Assemblies of God Minister."

(2) No publication of disciplinary action shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. As a result of affiliation with other church organizations.

In the event a minister shall identify himself with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, he shall then be requested by the district to surrender his Certificate of Ordination and his current Fellowship Certificate to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

Section 8. Referral for Action to The Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

If it is determined that a minister's credentials are to be terminated, the district shall recommend to The Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God that his name be removed from the official list of ministers, in accordance with Section 7 of this Article.

Such recommendations shall set forth in writing satisfactory

reasons for the action. Copies of these charges and recommendations shall be forwarded to the said Credentials Committee, to the minister involved, and to the superintendent of the home district. Thirty days from the date of the notification of the district decision shall be allowed for the accused to request a trial. He shall be apprised officially of this right at the time the district decision is made.

The said Credentials Committee shall be authorized to comply with the request of the district, if, in its judgment, the district was justified in the action taken. If the said Credentials Committee finds that justice has not been served, it may refer the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. Disposition of the case shall await further report from the district.

Section 9. Rehabilitation

When it has been determined, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, that there is a cause for disciplinary action as a result of a violation of Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Article IX, Section 2, it shall then be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine whether or not the offense warrants expulsion from the Fellowship by dismissal or restoration to good standing in the Fellowship through a program of rehabilitation. Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes best be served with mercy; therefore, the following provisions for rehabilitation shall apply:

(1) Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Article IX, Section 2) shall be subject to a period of rehabilitation.

(2) The period of rehabilitation shall be not less than one year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Section 2a in which it shall be for not less than two years.

(3) The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements to rehabilitation for the individual minister.

(a) The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation, and his credentials shall be held in the district office. The extent to which he may be permitted to minister, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery. Certain offenses may not require complete cessation of ministerial activities, although some restrictions or limitations may be warranted.

(b) The minister must remain a member of the district during the period of rehabilitation. While his credentials are in a state of suspension, his name shall not be published as removed

from the ministerial roster. In the event his ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor and presbyter.

(c) The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(d) The rehabilitation record shall not accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district and the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(e) When the rehabilitation period is satisfactorily completed, the minister shall be considered in good standing and his credentials restored.

(f) The terms of rehabilitation as above stated shall be administered at the discretion of the district presbytery.

(g) During the period of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the Ministers Group Insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(4) In the event a minister who has been dismissed shall later show repentance and indicate his desire for reinstatement, he shall, upon obtaining the approval of the district, enter the two-year rehabilitation program with the provision that he shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements of the program have been satisfactorily completed.

Section 8. Restoration of Credentials

a. Minimal Time-lapse. When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship shall have been removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew, and shall apply for reinstatement, he shall in no case be eligible for reinstatement until at least six months shall have elapsed after his name has been stricken from our list of ministers. For a minister who is listed as "dismissed," the minimal time-lapse required before he is eligible to apply for reinstatement shall be one year, except that a minister who is dismissed because of charges as stated in paragraph a of Section 2, the minimal time-lapse shall be two years. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the termination report filed with the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The Credentials Committee may also hold the matter in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

b. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made

through the district council within which territory the applicant resides. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made.

c. Terminology. (1) The term "renewed" shall be used to apply strictly to those who for inadvertent reasons fail to comply with the annual questionnaire deadline, but do renew on or before April 30 and are restored to the ministerial list; (2) The term "reinstatement" shall apply to those whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list, but have received district clearance for restoration to the ministerial list. (See, also, Section 23.)

B. Trial by Jury

Section 9. Right of Appeal and Authorization for a Trial

If the accused desires to appeal from the decision of the district, his request shall be filed by him with the office of the district superintendent within thirty days of his notification of the district decision. A copy of his appeal must be sent to the office of the General Superintendent with copies filed with other districts involved. The district shall be expected to furnish a record of the proceedings leading up to the district action. No trial shall be granted if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of his rights and privilege of trial.

If, in the judgment of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, justice has not been served, the case may be remanded with recommendation to the District Presbytery for review and reconsideration. In the event there is no change of viewpoint, a trial by jury shall be authorized.

The accused minister shall be required to surrender his current Fellowship Certificate, to be retained by the district until the case has been tried and judgment has been rendered. Refusal to surrender his credentials shall be considered insubordination and may result in the placing of an additional charge against the minister.

Section 10. Responsibility for Arrangements and Expenses of Trial

The appointed judge shall be responsible for making arrangements in the trial of members, as outlined in subsequent sections of this Article. In the event it should appear to the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, after consultation with the district, that it would not be feasible to conduct a trial within the bounds of the district where the alleged offense may have occurred, the said Credentials Committee shall designate a more suitable location.

The defendant shall be responsible for the expenses of his own witnesses and counsel.

Section 11. The Judge

The district executive officers, or the District Presbytery, shall select a presiding judge, who shall be approved by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The judge shall be a mature, ordained minister in good standing in fellowship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Any person known to be prejudiced toward the case shall be disqualified to serve as judge. He shall be authorized and instructed to conduct a fair trial.

Section 12. The Jury

The jury shall be chosen by the presiding judge subject to agreement both by the plaintiff and the defendant. The jury shall be composed of six ordained ministers who are mature men in good standing in fellowship with the Assemblies of God. There shall be one or more qualified alternates present. The plaintiff and defendant must present valid reasons for the disqualification of a juror prior to the time of trial.

Section 13. Time and Place

The time and place for the trial shall be determined by the judge, with the convenience of the principals fully considered in connection therewith. Trials shall be held at a place convenient to the location where the facts of the case are available.

Section 14. Notice of Trial

Preceding the trial the accused shall be notified by the judge of the time and place of the trial by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested. Up to thirty days shall be allowed to make all necessary arrangements for the trial. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the judge upon request by the defendant, or upon a request by the plaintiff. Such notice of trial shall be accompanied by a copy of the charges in writing, which shall be provided by the district.

Refusal of the defendant to appear for trial may be interpreted as an admission of guilt, and shall result in forfeiture of his right to appeal any decision rendered and any discipline administered.

Section 15. Conduct of Trial

Trials shall be conducted in all fairness to all concerned as brethren in the ministry, and in accordance with Assemblies of God principles and rules for trials by jury as herein defined. Considering the nature of such a trial only participants shall be permitted to attend. No discourtesy to anyone shall be allowed. Counsel in the case must conduct the trial subject to the rulings of the presiding judge. When objections to such rulings are made, they shall be written into the record, but the ruling shall stand for the trial.

Any person involved in or attending a trial, who shall engage in discourteous action or misbehavior, or who shall disregard the rulings of the court, may be held in contempt of court by the judge. The judge shall then order that the record of the court proceedings shall show such ruling. Charges or penalties may be placed against the offender. Should the defendant be found in contempt and refuse to comply with the ruling of the court, the judge may adjourn the court and submit his report to the Credentials Committee of the District and The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In this event the previous rulings in the case shall stand. Such decision will not jeopardize the defendant's right to appeal.

Section 16. Counsel

A mature, ordained minister, resident in the district, and in good standing in The General Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be chosen by the district to conduct the case for the plaintiff. The accused may conduct his own case, or be represented by another ordained minister. Counsel for the defendant must be in good standing in The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and in his respective district.

Both the counsel for plaintiff and defendant shall recognize the spiritual implications of their trust. They shall be obligated to present only pertinent material relating to the case.

Section 17. Record and Report of Trial

Provision shall be made by the plaintiff, with the approval of the judge, for making a true and accurate record of the trial. This shall be the official record and shall be kept on file in the district office for future reference. A certified copy of all records shall be forwarded to the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. If the offense shall have occurred in any district other than the one in which the accused is a member, a report of the findings of the trial shall be filed with the superintendent of his district. These records, as certified, are the sole property of the District Council and of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and are to be held in their respective files.

Section 18. Witnesses

Witnesses shall be free to testify under the direction of counsel. They shall not be required to answer questions asked by anyone other than the one presiding or the counsel who is at the time conducting the inquiry. Interrogation of witnesses and the taking of testimony from them shall be conducted in a Christlike manner, for the purpose of establishing the facts of the case.

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

Section 19. Order of Trial

a. The Plaintiff. The counsel for the plaintiff shall first present all testimony and exhibits intended to prove the charges made against the defendant. No testimony except such as is relevant to the charges, shall be allowed. The counsel for the defendant shall have opportunity to examine all exhibits and cross-examine all witnesses.

b. The Defendant. Counsel for the defendant shall be allowed time and opportunity to present his side of the case and shall be granted all due respect and consideration.

Defense testimony shall be confined to disproving the charges and must not include countercharges against anyone, or use the attitude or conduct of others as reason or excuse for the alleged misconduct. This shall not exclude the right to impeach a witness.

Counsel for the plaintiff shall have opportunity to examine all exhibits and cross-examine all witnesses.

c. Review. When the defense has rested, the case may be reviewed by counsel for each side, beginning with the defense.

d. Instructions to the Jury. The case shall be given to the jury with proper instructions by the presiding judge. Such instruction shall be confined to setting forth the true basis of judgment in the case as represented by the evidence and shall in no wise be intended to prejudice the jury.

Accusation does not imply guilt, but may imply a misunderstanding or wrong information. The purpose of a trial is to arrive at all available facts relative to the case, and to render a verdict based upon the evidence submitted. Judgment in the case shall be rendered in accord with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The jury shall be instructed to choose one of its number to serve as foreman when it retires to the jury room. The foreman shall lead the jurors in the review of the case and shall poll the jurors until a decision is reached.

Should there seem to be no possibility of reaching a decision of a two-thirds majority after repeated ballots, the foreman shall so apprise the judge. It shall be the prerogative of the judge to determine whether the balloting should continue. Should the jury be unable to reach a verdict the judge shall dismiss the jury and declare a mistrial. In the event of a mistrial because the jury cannot reach a verdict, the judge shall set the date for a new trial and a new jury be selected.

Section 20. The Verdict

The verdict shall be reached by a two-thirds vote of the jury, and when presented to the court, the judge shall announce the verdict and adjourn the court, advising the defendant if found guilty that his counsel will inform him of his further rights of

appeal. It shall then be the responsibility of the counsel for the defense to advise the defendant of his rights and privileges of appeal from the decision of the court.

The judge shall file his report with the districts involved and with the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The district shall take appropriate action in accordance with the verdict rendered.

Section 21. New Trials

a. Right of Appeal. The defendant may appeal from the decision of a court. Appeal shall be filed with the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and notice of such appeal shall be made in writing addressed to the General Superintendent. A copy of notice of appeal shall be given and appeal made within thirty days following the date of notification of the verdict.

In the event the trial occurred in a district other than the one in which the defendant is a member, a copy of the appeal shall also be filed with the superintendent of his home district.

b. Bases for Appeals. Appeals from the decision of the court affecting the minister's standing in the Assemblies of God fellowship as a result of a trial may be made only upon the following grounds:

- (1) Mistrial. When there has been error either in arrangement for trial or method of conducting the same, or in the case of a verdict unsupported by sufficient evidence;
- (2) New Evidence. After final decision has been rendered, in the event new evidence is presented to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, such new trial shall be authorized and conducted as herein defined.

c. Review by the Appeals Board. The Executive Presbytery on notice of an appeal shall appoint an Appeals Board of seven impartial ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to hear the case and render a decision. Appeal from a trial cannot result in a retrial at the Assemblies of God national headquarters. It shall be the duty of the Appeals Board to review the case, carefully examining the official record of trial.

All appeals shall be considered on the basis of the record of trial. No person or persons shall have the right to introduce testimony of new evidence at a review of a tried case. All such evidence or testimony must be presented in new trials. The parties involved shall not be present at a review of an appeal, but may file a written brief in summation of trial material with the general secretary.

In case the Appeals Board shall rule a mistrial, it shall be the right of that body to which appeal has been made to nullify the decision of the court and to authorize a new trial. The Executive Presbytery shall outline proper procedure.

Section 22. Review by the General Presbytery

When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Appeals Board, either by the defendant or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery. This appeal shall be addressed to the office of the general secretary. Procedure in such cases shall conform to that in making appeal from a district credentials committee action or a jury trial, and must be made within thirty days following the notification of the decision of the Appeals Board.

Section 23. Reinstatement

A minister shall not be considered to have exhausted the avenues of remedy provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body until application for reinstatement has been acted upon by the district officer.

No publication of the action of the district shall be made until such time as action has been taken and authorization given by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE X. SPIRITUAL LIFE—EVANGELISM

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

There shall be a Spiritual Life—Evangelism planning and coordinating office to assist the general superintendent in implementing the threefold mission of the church. Divisions and departments shall cooperate in this priority effort.

Section 2. Organization

a. This office shall be under the direction of the general superintendent and amenable to the Executive Presbytery. A Spiritual Life—Evangelism coordinator shall be nominated by the general superintendent and appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. There shall be a Committee on Mission to assist in promoting and coordinating efforts to fulfill the threefold mission of the church. The committee shall offer advice, indicate ways in which divisional and departmental resources can be used in fulfilling the mission of the church, and communicate to departments the emphasis which it, or the general superintendent, places upon each phase of the threefold mission.

c. The Committee on Mission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of the Board of Administration and representatives from the various headquarters ministries. The general superintendent shall serve as ex officio mem-

ber and chairman of the Committee on Mission. The Spiritual Life—Evangelism coordinator shall serve as secretary.

d. Subcommittees of the Committee on Mission shall include the Mobilization and Placement Service Committee, the Evangelism Literature for America Committee, and such other committees as may be required to give full emphasis to the mission of the church. They shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

Section 3. Function

a. The Spiritual Life—Evangelism office shall serve as an agency to provide leadership and to coordinate efforts through all divisions and departments.

b. Specific functions shall include:

- (1) Providing leadership in coordination of efforts to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.
- (2) Planning and promoting special evangelistic and spiritual-life emphases.
- (3) Developing and implementing the Mobilization and Placement Service.
- (4) Developing and implementing the Evangelism Literature for America program.
- (5) Serving the evangelists' fellowship.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Section 1. Purpose and Scope

National directors shall be selected to serve as the heads of the various divisions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as need may require. They shall be responsible to the Executive Presbytery and supervised by the general superintendent within guidelines set forth by the policy-making bodies.

Section 2. Selection

a. The Executive Presbytery shall make a careful survey of the Movement for potential candidates when seeking to fill national director positions.

b. The national directors shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. Their terms of office shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify.

c. All national directors shall be members of the Assemblies of God.

d. The Executive Presbytery shall determine the salaries of the national directors.

Section 3. Duties

The duties of a national director shall include the following:

a. He shall be charged with the operational function of the division in accordance with the job description provided by the Executive Presbytery.

b. He shall have the prerogative of presenting the programs and budgets of the division in person to the Executive Presbytery for approval.

c. He shall coordinate the various functions of the departments in such a manner as to provide needed services and ministries for the constituency with efficiency and economy.

ARTICLE XII. DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

a. There shall be a Division of Christian Education which shall have general oversight over the Department of Church School Literature and the Department of Education.

b. The purpose of the division is to correlate the emphases on curriculum development and training of church leaders.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Christian Education.

d. The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Department of Church School Literature

a. Authorization and Purpose

(1) There shall be a Church School Literature Department which shall be charged with the responsibility of the preparation of all curricular materials for church schools.

(2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

(1) There shall be an editor of church school literature who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial and curricular content of all publications and periodicals within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies. New materials or changes in style or format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publications before being initiated.

Section 2. Department of Education

a. Authorization and Purpose

(1) There shall be a Department of Education which shall be generally responsible for supervising and promoting those education activities of the Assemblies of God which do not usually occur as part of the congregational life of the local church or which have not been constitutionally assigned to other departments of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Such promotion and supervision shall not infringe upon the sovereignty of the various districts and churches. This responsibility shall include nursery schools, kindergartens, grade schools, high schools, junior colleges, senior colleges, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, graduate schools, correspondence schools, and general ministerial and missionary training.

(2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

(1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

(2) The government and work of the Department of Education shall be vested in, and committed to the Board of Education, which shall consist of eighteen members to be constituted as follows: The national director of Christian Education, an executive presbyter, one pastor or district officer not associated with the internal administration of an Assemblies of God college from each of the eight geographical areas of the United States, two laymen and six presidents of endorsed institutions of higher learning.

(3) The national director shall serve on the Board of Education by virtue of office; the executive presbyter shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery; the eight regional members shall be elected by the general presbyters of the respective areas at called meetings during the annual meeting of the General Presbytery; two laymen shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery; and six presidents shall be appointed to the board by the Executive Presbytery on a rotating basis. One year shall lapse after a term is completed before a president is returned to the board.

(4) The members of the Board of 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 national director shall serve as chairman of the board. It shall conduct its own meetings as occasion may require. The leaders of the schools may be invited to the meetings of the Board of Education with the privilege of the floor even though they may not have the privilege of voting. The Board of Education and the entire Department of Education shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery in all matters.

Section 3. Duties and Functions

It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Education 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 Department of Education 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 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 interschool

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 Assemblies of God shall be recognized as approved unless or until it conforms to the standards erected by the Department of Education 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 Department of Education shall consider all endorsed Assemblies of God schools as upon an equal basis, regardless of origin, ownership, or control. All schools which are approved and endorsed by the Department of Education shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in Assemblies of God publications and in the promotional work of the Department of Education.

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

It shall be the prerogative of the Department of Education 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 graduate school of theology for those who seek special training for the ministry in the United States or foreign lands.

ARTICLE XIII. DIVISION OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

a. There shall be a Division of Church Ministries which shall have general oversight over the following departments: Men, Music, Sunday School, Women's Missionary Council, and Youth.

b. The purpose of the division is to coordinate and correlate local church programs on the national level.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Church Ministries.

d. The division and all of its departments shall be amenable

to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Men's Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

- (1) There shall be a Men's Department which shall have as its primary responsibility in its field of activity to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its three-fold mission.
- (2) The function of this department shall include:
 - (a) Encouraging development of the work of the men at the local, district, and national levels of the constituency.
 - (b) Promoting the participation of men in the ministries of the local church.
 - (c) Developing the interest of men in supporting all programs of the Assemblies of God.
 - (d) Coordinating the efforts of the men in local and district organizations within the Assemblies of God.
 - (e) Encouraging and teaching men to engage in personal witnessing for Christ.
 - (f) Organizing and promoting a program for boys.
 - (g) Participating in sponsoring world missions evangelistic literature crusades and such other programs as may be approved in the future.
 - (h) Preparing and publishing handbooks, manuals, and such literature as may be needed to further the fulfilling of the mission of the church by the men of the Assemblies of God.
 - (i) Publicizing the work of the Assemblies of God men.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.
- (2) There shall be a Men's Department committee consisting of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Men's Department, the Royal Rangers national commander, the chairman and president of the national Light-for-the-Lost Council, the national Light-for-the-Lost secretary, the national Action Crusades coordinator, the chairman and president of the national Action Crusades Council, and two Royal Rangers national aides-de-camp. The national director shall serve as chairman.
- (3) Members of the Men's Committee shall serve for a

period of two years, or until their successors are appointed.

Section 2. Department of Music

a. Authorization and Purpose

- (1) There shall be a Department of Music which shall be responsible for the preparation of music publications and for the encouragement of the ministry of music in the local church. It shall provide music seminars as may be needed.
- (2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.
- (2) There shall be a Music Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Music Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification by the General Presbytery. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.
- (3) The Music Committee shall serve for a two-year period or until its successors are selected.
- (4) The preparation of new materials or changes in style and format which affect the budget of the Gosepl Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publications before being initiated.

Section 3. Sunday School Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

- (1) There shall be a Sunday School Department which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday schools and other church schools of a nonacademic nature throughout the Fellowship.
- (2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

The purpose of the Sunday School Department shall be:

- (a) To assist district and local Sunday school organizations in setting up effective programs.
- (b) To promote and conduct Sunday school conventions on a national and regional basis.

- (c) To encourage and conduct training programs for teachers and workers.
- (d) To produce manuals, handbooks, brochures, and literature of a promotional nature.
- (e) To assist in the organization and development of vacation Bible schools and other educational activities of the local church.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.
- (2) The Sunday School Department Committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the Sunday School Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. The national director shall serve as chairman.
- (3) The Sunday School Department Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are appointed.

c. The Sunday School Counselor

The "Sunday School Counselor" shall be recognized as the official publication of the Sunday School Department.

d. District Organization

- (1) Provision shall be made for a district Sunday school department in each district of the Assemblies of God. The purpose shall be:
 - (a) To coordinate national, district, sectional, and local efforts for Sunday school efficiency, growth, and development.
 - (b) To encourage every Sunday school in the district to attain to the National Sunday School Standard.
 - (c) To promote Sunday school efficiency through seminars, tours, conventions, or by any other acceptable means.
- (2) There may be a district Sunday school director. He shall be chosen in keeping with the District constitution and bylaws.
- (3) There may be a district constitution and bylaws which shall be presented to the district council for approval.
- (4) Time may be given throughout the year for the advancement of all phases of the district and national Sunday school calendar.

Section 4. Women's Missionary Council Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

- (1) There shall be a Women's Missionary Council Department which shall have as its primary responsibility in its field of activities to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

(2) The functions of this department shall include:

- (a) Encouraging development of the work of women at the local, district, and national levels of the Fellowship.
- (b) Correlating the work of the women with the needs represented by Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and Benevolences in such a way that the needs may be met quickly and equitably with each district and local group carrying its proportionate share of service.
- (c) Encouraging district and local groups to view their service as a spiritual ministry and stewardship in which faithfulness is important.
- (d) Encouraging the women of the fellowship to engage in the ministry of personal witnessing and the ministry of intercessory prayer.
- (e) Offering encouragement and assistance to district leaders and local groups for organization and operation.
- (f) Conducting WMC conventions, seminars, and rallies concerning the Women's Missionary Council and its program.
- (g) Organizing and promoting a program for girls.
- (h) Preparing and publishing handbooks and manuals, and issuing such bulletins as may be needed to implement the department program.
- (i) Publicizing the Women's Missionary Council through the media of "The Pentecostal Evangel" and other periodicals as opportunity affords.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.
- (2) The national Women's Missionary Council Committee shall consist of the national director of the Church Ministries Division, the secretary of the Women's Missionary Council Department, the Missionettes coordinator, other key personnel from the national office, and not more than eight additional representatives from the various areas of the United States appointed by the Executive Presbytery. This committee shall meet an-

nually. Its members shall serve for two years or until their successors are appointed.

- (3) The resident Women's Missionary Committee shall consist of the national director, the secretary of the department, the director of the Home Missions Division, the director of the Foreign Missions Division, and two others, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. Members of the committee shall serve for two years or until their successors are appointed.

c. Funds

- (1) An annual National Women's Missionary Council Day shall be observed at which time the ministry of the Women's Missionary Council shall be promoted. It is recommended that an offering be received in each church which shall be sent to the national Women's Missionary Council for use in the support of the national office and to aid in costs of services it offers to district and local units.
- (2) To aid further in support of the work at both district and national levels, it is urged that each local Women's Missionary Council group shall be faithful in tithing its income into the district Women's Missionary Council office and the district Women's Missionary Council office in turn to tithe to the national office.

Section 5. Youth Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

- (1) There shall be a Youth Department which shall be responsible for the youth work known as Christ's Ambassadors. The department may be responsible for other related youth programs which shall be deemed feasible and desirable.
- (2) The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the Church in fulfilling its threefold mission: evangelization of the world, worshiping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. In part, it shall fulfill this responsibility by planning and promoting a spiritual program directed toward the youth of the Assemblies of God, encouraging the youth to assist in fulfilling the threefold mission of the church.
- (3) The functions of this department shall include:
 - (a) Encouraging and assisting the developing of district young people's programs.
 - (b) Coordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.

- (c) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of youth.
- (d) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges;
- (e) Developing and promoting guidelines for use at the district and local level.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.
- (2) The national director of the Church Ministries Division, the secretary of the Youth Department, with three others selected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery shall constitute the Youth Committee. At least three members of the above committee shall be appointed from the field at large.
- (3) The Youth Committee shall serve for a period of two years or until its successors are selected.

c. Official Publication

The official publication of the department shall be "Youth Alive."

d. District Christ's Ambassadors Organizations

- (1) 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 cooperative 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.
- (2) The manner of election of the district CA president will be according to the provisions of the district constitution and bylaws. He shall be an ordained minister. It is recommended that he will be under the age of thirty-five at the time of his first election, but may be retained as long as his service is desired.
- (3) A constitution and bylaws covering the activities of the

district organization shall be submitted to and approved by the district presbytery.

- (4) The president of the district organization shall be subject to call by the district presbytery for consultation in matters pertaining to young people.
- (5) Sectional meetings of the district organization shall be strictly spiritual in character and arranged through the cooperation of the pastors and young people's leaders in each section, taking care not to conflict with other local or district meetings.

e. Local Christ's Ambassadors Organizations

- (1) 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.
- (2) The members of this group shall be born-again young people living consistent Christian lives.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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 XXIII. World Missions Plan)

ARTICLE XIV. DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

a. There shall be a Division of Communications which shall have general oversight over the following areas: Auxiliary Communications, The Office of Information, The Pentecostal Evangel, and Radio and Television.

b. The purpose of the division shall be to correlate information from general headquarters, both through our periodicals and in the effective use of available communication facilities, such as, radio, television, audiovisual, and recording devices.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Communications.

d. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to

and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Auxiliary Communications

a. In order to strengthen the flow of information to all segments of the Fellowship in the most economical and efficient manner, all periodicals of a promotional nature other than those produced at divisional or departmental levels shall be under the general supervision of the Division of Communications.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to employ editors as may be needed.

Section 2. Office of Information

a. There shall be an Office of Information which shall serve as an agency in the dissemination of news about the Assemblies of God to the Fellowship and the general public. This shall include releases to district bulletins, religious magazines, news syndicates, and radio and television stations.

b. The office shall provide services as needed in hosting visitors to general headquarters.

c. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a secretary of information who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel

a. Authorization and Purpose

(1) "The Pentecostal Evangel" shall be the official organ of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be published:

- (a) To fulfill the threefold mission of the church;
- (b) To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- (c) To give proper emphasis to Pentecostal distinctives, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit and its desired effects in the lives of believers; and
- (d) To strengthen the fellowship.

(2) The preparation of "The Pentecostal Evangel" shall be a function of the Division of Communications.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) There shall be an editor of "The Pentecostal Evangel" who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.
- (2) The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of "The Pentecostal Evangel" within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies. It is understood that changes in style and format affecting the budget of the Gospel Publishing House shall not be initiated without the approval of the Board of Publications.

Section 4. Radio and Television Department

a. Authorization and Purpose

- (1) There shall be a Radio and Television Department whose primary responsibility in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talents as shall meet the requirements of the department.
- (4) 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.

b. Government and Organization

- (1) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.
- (2) There shall be a Radio and Television Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the secretary of the Radio and Television Department, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the ratification by the General Presbytery.
- (3) The Radio and Television Committee shall serve a two-year period or until its successors are appointed.

c. Funds

The national director shall be authorized to employ such means for the raising of funds as shall be deemed advisable by the Radio and Television Committee.

ARTICLE XV. DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

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 Division to which shall be committed all the foreign missionary interests of the Fellowship.

b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

c. 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.

d. In fields where Pentecostal missionaries are already stationed, consultation shall be had with the brethren on the field and the Foreign Missions Division, and a satisfactory plan agreed upon before an attempt shall be made to establish new stations in such localities.

e. Every assembly shall be encouraged to assume definite responsibility for full or partial support of one or more missionaries in cooperation with the Foreign Missions Division.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The executive director of Foreign Missions shall be elected in the manner described in Article II, Section 2, paragraph "f" of the Bylaws.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a secretary of the Foreign Missions Division who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

c. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery. The decisions of the Foreign Missions Board shall be subject to review by the General Presbytery as well as the Executive Presbytery.

d. The activities of the Foreign Missions Division shall be under the supervision of a Foreign Missions Board which shall consist of the executive director of the division, two executive presbyters, the division secretary, four field secretaries, and eight pastors of proven missionary zeal and accomplishments who shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery from the eight 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 sections of divisional activities as need may arise.

The board shall also be authorized to

1. Evaluate missions policies consistently in the light of changing conditions.

2. Devise and publish a code of procedure that will serve to guide the division 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 Appeals in all matters relating to field decisions. In the case of divisional decisions which are appealed, there shall be a Board of Appeals consisting of those members of the Foreign Missions Board who are not members of the Foreign Missions Committee. This board shall act upon any appeal from a division decision. Members of the Foreign Missions Committee who are members of the board may present their case to the Board of Appeals but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting.

The missionary or the Foreign Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

e. Field secretaries to represent major geographical areas shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas. The appointments shall be subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

f. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Foreign Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairman, the division secretary as vice-chairman, the field secretaries, and the heads of major sections of the divisions. The responsibilities of this committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Foreign Missions Board.

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

The Foreign Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries, who will at that time be home on furlough, from each general area represented by the four field secretaries of the Foreign Missions Division, 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 to represent them on the General Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect, and a report made of the ballots cast.

h. An advisory committee consisting of eight 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 cooperation with

the Foreign Missions Board in the promotion of world missions.

They shall be selected from the eight areas of the nation, designated for the eight 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 Division.

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 Division

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

a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan offerings. (See Article XXIII. 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 Division.

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 missionaries shall be expected to meet the requirements of the Foreign Missions Division.

g. The Foreign Missions Division 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 Division 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 Division for administrative expense.

b. All funds assigned to particular persons shall be forwarded by the Foreign Missions Division exactly as directed, except that five percent of all missionary funds (with the exclusion of special designations) handled directly by the division shall be transferred to an emergency fund to meet emergency expenses for which the Foreign Missions Division is responsible.

c. 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 Division. It shall not be incumbent upon the Foreign Missions Division to send of its undesignated funds to missionaries who do not furnish such a report.

d. Missionaries expecting the endorsement and aid of the Foreign Missions Division shall report to the Foreign Missions Division and receive its approval before leaving this country. The Foreign Missions Division shall assume no responsibility whatever, where the foregoing requirements are not complied with.

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

(See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan.)

Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

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

Section 7. 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 cooperating, 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 Division, 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 Division since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the Field Fellowship. The Missionary Field Fellowships shall serve in a consultative capacity to the Foreign Missions Division 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 Division but shall avoid encroachment.

ing 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 Division 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 overall area which he represents.

Section 8. 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 Division, these principles shall be followed:

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

(2) It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. However, the Foreign Missions Division 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 Division has advanced trust funds on a loan basis The General Council of the Assemblies of God 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 cooperate with the Missionary Fellowship on the field, and secure its endorsement before submitting the proposition to the Foreign Missions Division.

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 Division for file.

Sectional 9. 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 10. 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 cooperate with the Foreign Missions Division 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 Division in consultation with the Missionary Fellowships on the various fields. It shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Division 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 Division.

c. It shall be the responsibility of the Missionary Field Fellowship to recommend to the Foreign Missions Division 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 Division 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 XVI. DIVISION OF HOME MISSIONS

Section 1. Authorization and Scope

a. 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 Division.

b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of

activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission, the essential function being the establishing of new churches through the auspices of the district councils.

c. The work of the division shall include:

(1) New Church Evangelism

(2) Ministry among those people in the United States who are in need of special help by reason of cultural barriers, handicaps, or geographical isolation.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

b. The Home Missions Division shall be under the supervision of a Home Missions Board which shall consist of the national director, one member of the Board of Administration, two nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery, and eight other ministers selected, one from each of the eight established geographical areas of the Fellowship. Four of the national board members shall be selected from among those district officials who have assigned to them the portfolio of District Home Missions Director.

c. The members of the Home Missions Board shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

d. A term of office shall be for two years, and so arranged that one half of the terms expire annually.

e. It shall be the responsibility of the Home Missions Board to evaluate home missions policies, to offer guidance and counsel in all areas of home missions ministries, to establish standards for appointed home missionaries and home missions institutions and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to field and department decisions.

f. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Home Missions Committee consisting of the national director as chairman, and four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

g. National representatives to serve in specific areas of home missions work may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery as it becomes advisable and practical.

h. The work of the Home Missions Division shall be under the general oversight of, and amenable to, the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. New Church Evangelism Department

a. The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various districts.

b. Practical aid shall be provided through:

(1) Development and promotion of a fund from which grants may be provided to the various districts for establishing new churches.

(2) Development of new church financing.

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

(4) Promotion of an intern program whereby schools of the Assemblies of God may provide assistance for new church evangelism.

c. The division shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in new church evangelism may be refined and offered to other districts.

Section 4. Special Ministries Department

a. Work in the field of special ministries shall function in cooperation with the various districts. This shall include ministry in the specific areas listed in Section 1, paragraph c-2. The Home Missions Division shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds. The supervision and administration of the work in the special ministries field shall be committed to the districts where the works are located.

b. Teen Challenge ministries shall be under the direction of a Teen Challenge representative. His duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraph a of this Section 4. There shall be a proper liaison between this function and the Teen Challenge work which is carried on overseas under the auspices of the Foreign Missions Division.

c. All other work in the special ministries field shall be combined in one section under the direction of a special ministries representative.

d. Special ministries representatives shall be amenable to the national director of the Home Missions Division.

e. National home missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Board with the approval of their home district and the district in which the missionaries will be working. These appointments are subject to renewal annually. All missionary appointments and the annual renewals thereof shall be made according to the provisions of criteria established for that purpose.

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

Section 5. Department of Chaplains

a. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy

- (1) The industrial and institutional chaplaincy shall function under the supervision of the Home Missions Committee.
- (2) The ministry of this section will concern itself with the work of chaplains in industries and institutions.
- (3) The Home Missions Division shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

b. Military Chaplaincy

- (1) The military chaplaincy shall function under the military chaplaincy commission which shall consist of a chairman and five others appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The national director of the Home Missions Division shall be a member of the commission by virtue of his office. The term of office for the members of the commission shall be for two years. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery.
- (2) The basic function of the military chaplaincy shall include:
 - (a) Work among servicemen. (It shall be understood that there shall be a proper liaison between the servicemen's work and that which is related to the servicemen's ministry overseas under the auspices of the Foreign Missions Division.)
 - (b) Work among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.
 - (c) Responsibility for processing applications for candidates for the military chaplaincy and extending ecclesiastical endorsement.
 - (d) Responsibility for receiving support from the various chaplains for the operation of the section on the military chaplaincy.
 - (e) Responsibility for seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and to encourage them in entering open doors of ministry.

c. Chaplains Representative

There shall be a chaplains representative to assist in the operation of the section who shall be nominated by the Commission on Chaplains and ratified by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 5. Finances

a. The division 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. World ministries credit will be given for funds given to appointed home missionaries and to home missionary projects approved by the district and Home Missions Division.

ARTICLE XVII. DIVISION OF PUBLICATION

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. There shall be a Division of Publication which shall serve the Fellowship and to which shall be committed the management and operation of the Gospel Publishing House. The responsibilities of the Gospel Publishing House shall include the publication and distribution of "The Pentecostal Evangel", curricular material and other literature for church schools, and such other periodicals and publications as may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

b. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

b. The division shall consist of the Department of Marketing and Distribution and the Department of Production, which shall be supervised by a manager of each selected by the Executive Presbytery.

c. There shall be a Board of Publications which shall have the general oversight over the publishing interests of the General Council. It shall be concerned with the cost and earning factors of all areas affecting publications and shall exercise discretionary powers in the budgetary affairs of the Division of Publication. The Board of Publications shall function within the framework of the guidelines established by the Executive Presbytery for the editorial and curriculum content of all publications and periodicals.

d. The Board of Publications shall consist of the national director of the Division of Publication, the general superintendent, the general treasurer, and two additional members from among the executive presbytery or the national directors, who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery. The national director of the Division of Publication shall serve as chairman. The Board of Publications shall meet monthly. It shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

e. Committees shall be named as necessary in carrying on the work of the division. They shall be nominated by the national director of the Division of Publication and ratified by the

Board of Publications. All committee decisions shall be reported to the Board of Publications for approval and authorization. They shall be amenable to the Board of Publications.

f. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 3. The Gospel Publishing House

The Gospel Publishing House, its plant and equipment, its general business interests, and the promotion and production of all salable periodicals and publications, shall be under the supervision of the Division of Publication and shall be operated in such a manner that it shall make an optimum contribution to the fulfillment of the threefold mission of the church.

ARTICLE XVIII. 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 Benevolences Department shall function under the direction of the general treasurer.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the general treasurer.

c. The department shall be administered by a committee consisting of the general treasurer, the secretary of the Department of Benevolences, and three others who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

d. The Benevolences Department Committee shall serve for a period of two years, or until its successors are selected.

e. The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

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. Only ministers who are in good standing may be considered.

b. The applicant shall have reached the age of sixty-five in the case of an ordained minister, or sixty in the case of a widow of a minister.

c. Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

d. The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least ten years immediately prior to retirement.

e. The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

f. Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officer.

Section 5. Homes for the Aged and Children

Benevolent institutions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be operated by boards of directors nominated by the Benevolences Committee and ratified by the Executive Presbytery. These boards shall be responsible to the Benevolences Department in matters of policy and administration, and their actions shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. District Council Benevolent Institutions

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

ARTICLE XIX. 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 of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. The treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

b. The Board of Administration shall constitute the Executive Finance Committee.

c. A Standing Committee on Finance consisting of seven men from the constituency on the field, shall be elected by the

Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the denominational or departmental level involving the expenditure of funds. Any project to be submitted for consideration by the General Council which involves the expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to this committee for review and advice.

In order to provide continuity of service, their terms shall be arranged in the following manner: three shall serve for a one-year term; two shall serve for a two-year term; and two shall serve for a three-year term. After the expiration of the first year, appointments shall be made for three-year terms.

d. The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery. The functions shall consist of those usual and ordinary to a Department of Finance, and to include the processing of mail.

Section 3. Support of Headquarters

a. The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in home and foreign fields incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute three dollars (\$3.00) per month from their tithes, or as an offering, or through their influence. Licensed ministers should contribute two dollars (\$2.00) per month. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

Each minister who has not complied with the above requirements or with the financial policy of his district shall send a statement of explanation with his annual questionnaire.

The General Treasurer's office shall submit to the respective district offices a semiannual 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, through personal letters; or (3) through any other media selected by the district.

The districts shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and, in their knowledge of local situations, determine if he has been voluntarily cooperating with the General Council financial program.

b. If practicable, let each assembly take one offering each year for the upkeep of the national headquarters office and the travel expense of the executive officers.

Section 4. World Ministries Giving

a. In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches shall be encouraged to send offerings therefor at regular intervals.

A combined report of all offerings which are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of World Ministries Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

b. World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to: Foreign and Home Missions, Spiritual Life—Evangelism, support of executive offices, Education, Sunday School, Christ's Ambassadors, Radio, Benevolences, Women's Missionary Council, Men's Fellowship, educational institutions and other General Council, regional and district sponsored or approved projects. It is understood that no district or region may receive world ministries credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

ARTICLE XX. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Miscellaneous Institutions

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

b. It shall also 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. Central Bible College

Central Bible College, a ministerial training institution providing Bible-centered courses of training to prepare Christian workers for effectual service at home and abroad, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The College is forever bound to give Christ the preeminence in all things and bound to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and to the policies and standards as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The execution of policy and the administration of the College shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws. The College and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and to the General Presbytery.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have control over all phases of the College.

Section 3. Evangel College

Evangel College of the Assemblies of God, a Christian college of arts and sciences, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The College is forever bound to give Christ the preeminence in all things and bound to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and to the policies and standards as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The execution of policy and the administration of the College may be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws. The College and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and to the General Presbytery.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have control over all phases of the College.

ARTICLE XXI. MILITARY SERVICE

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose for himself whether to declare his position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XXII. MINISTERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Organization

There shall be an Association known as the Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association.

Section 2. Administration

There shall be a Board of Directors elected by the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God subject to ratification by the General Presbytery. All boards of directors of this association shall be amenable to The Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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 of the Assemblies of God 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 and Benefits

Provisions governing contributions by members and benefits

to accrue to members of the Ministers Benefit Association shall be contained in the bylaws of the association.

ARTICLE XXIII. 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

Speed-the-Light offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 72% Foreign Missions and Special Ministries Home Missions—Speed-the-Light
- 18% District Home Missions—Speed-the-Light
- 10% National Youth (CA) Department Administration Costs, Speed-the-Light

The portion returned to the district shall be designated for the purchase and erection of property in pioneer fields, including Chi Alpha ministries, with the exception that up to one-half of the eighteen percent returned to District Home Missions under World Speed-the-Light be allowed for the administration of the district Christ's Ambassadors office at the discretion of the district officary.

The portion allocated to "special ministries" shall be restricted to missionaries under home missions appointment.

ARTICLE XXIV. 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 XXV. QUORUM

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of seven executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of three members of the Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXVI. AMENDMENTS

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

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