

MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH GENERAL COUNCIL

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 18-23, 1977

MINUTES
of the
Thirty-Seventh Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri, October 13, 1916; amended September 26, 1919, September 7, 1965, and November 4, 1977)

Convened at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
August 18-23, 1977

(Printed in the U.S.A.)

FOREWORD

This book contains the official minutes of the Thirty-seventh General Council which convened in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 18-23, 1977. It also includes the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. A monumental amount of business was taken care of expeditiously, including a substantial number of revisions to the General Council Bylaws, which are included in this printing.

The theme of the Council, "He Is Worthy," was given emphasis in all the services, with General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman setting the tone in his keynote message on the "Lordship of Christ." Different aspects of the theme were expounded by the other speakers: Hardy Steinberg, Robert Schmidgall, Denny Duron, Robert E. Coggin, Albert Cakau, Glen D. Cole, J. Foy Johnson, and David C. Crabtree. Dr. Harold Lindsell, editor of *Christianity Today*, was the speaker at the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, August 20. The Letters of Life quartet from Dallas, Texas, ministered at that time.

Former executives Bert Webb and Gayle F. Lewis led the Hour of Prayer, on Friday morning and Monday morning, respectively.

The ministry of music throughout the Council was superb. The Sunday evening "Celebration of Praise" highlighted Dino and Debbie Kartsonakis, The Couriers, and Evie Tornquist, as well as a mass choir and orchestra under the direction of John Shows, Evangel College professor. Council song leaders were Jim Campbell, minister of youth and music at First Assembly of God, Lakeland, Florida, and David Richards, minister of music at First Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee.

There was a full program of activities for the youth and children, and child care was under the supervision of Edith Denton.

A fuller report has been carried in the *Pentecostal Evangel*. Christ was honored and exalted, and His people were drawn closer to Him—and to one another.

Joseph R. Flower

MINUTES OF
THE THIRTY-SEVENTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED
AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
AUGUST 18-23, 1977

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Administrative Offices: 1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802
Telephone (417) 862-2781

Executive Officers

Thos. F. Zimmerman	General Superintendent
G. Raymond Carlson	Assistant General Superintendent
Joseph R. Flower	General Secretary
Raymond H. Hudson	General Treasurer

The Executive Presbytery

Thos. F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent

G. Raymond Carlson	Raymond H. Hudson
N. D. Davidson	J. Foy Johnson
Richard W. Dortch	Paul Lowenberg
Joseph R. Flower	D. H. McLaughlin
James E. Hamill	R. D. E. Smith
J. Philip Hogan	Roy H. Wead

The 37th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Myriad Convention Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Thursday, August 18, at 2 p.m. General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman gave opening remarks and admonished the body to look upon the auditorium as a sanctuary into which we have come to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

The general superintendent read a Scripture portion, Revelation 7:9-17, and then led in singing "Thou Art Worthy." He introduced the General Council song leaders: Jim Campbell, minister of youth and music, First Assembly of God, Lakeland, Florida; and David Richards, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee. Jim Campbell led the congregation in singing "Stand Up for Jesus," "How Great Thou Art," and "He Lives." Mrs. Dwight Colbaugh, wife of the New Jersey D-CAP, was at the piano, and Mrs. Loren Wooten, pastor's wife of First Assembly of God, Sikeston, Missouri, was at the organ.

Gayle F. Lewis, former general superintendent and retired executive presbyter, of Springfield, Missouri, led in prayer.

**Appreciation to Oklahoma District Council
and Oklahoma City**

The chairman expressed appreciation to Oklahoma City and to the Oklahoma District for helping make this General Council possible. Robert E. Goggin, Oklahoma District superintendent, was introduced as host district superintendent and brought words of welcome from Oklahoma.

Introduction of Executive Presbytery

The chairman introduced the following brethren: G. Raymond Carlson, assistant general superintendent; Joseph R. Flower, general secretary; Raymond H. Hudson, general treasurer; J. Philip Hogan, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; N. D. Davidson, Richard W. Dortch, James E. Hamill, J. Foy Johnson, Paul Lowenberg, Dwight H. McLaughlin, R.D.E. Smith, and Roy Wead.

Introduction of Retired Executive Officers

The retired executive presbyters who were present were introduced as follows: Gayle F. Lewis, former general superintendent; Bartlett Peterson, former general secretary; Charles W. H. Scott, former assistant general superintendent; Bert Webb, former assistant general superintendent; and G. W. Hardcastle, Sr., former executive presbyter.

Introduction of Headquarters Personnel

The national directors of the various divisions of the headquarters offices were introduced individually, and employees representing each division were acknowledged.

Fraternal Delegates

Assistant General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson presented special courtesy packets to the fraternal delegates as Thomas F. Zimmerman introduced and greeted them: G. Edward Nelson, Jr., associate secretary in the National Distribution Department, American Bible Society; Fred Lessten, special secretary for Church Relations, American Bible Society; A. Van Polen, secretary of National Fellowship, Assemblies of God in Holland; Gianfranco Arcangeli, director of Bethany Village, Assemblies of God in Italy; J. L. Sullivan, general superintendent, The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith, Tulsa, Oklahoma; K. E. Massingill, assistant overseer, The Church of God Mountain Assembly, Inc., Jellico, Tennessee; Sidney O. Westbrook, supervisor, South Central District, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Dr. Billy A. Melvin, executive director, National Association of Evangelicals; Frank Smith, general superintendent, The Open Bible Standard Churches, Inc.; S. D. Feltmate, executive director of Christian Education and Youth, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; and Roy H. Chappell, general superintendent, The Pentecostal Church of God, Joplin, Missouri. Special plaques were given to Gianfranco Arcangeli and A. Van Polen to mark the occasion of their visit to the General Council.

General Superintendent Honored

John McPherson of Sacramento, California, a native of the State of Oklahoma and member of the Cherokee Indian Tribe, presented a Cherokee war bonnet to General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman, proclaiming him an honorary chief and giving him a Cherokee Indian name which means Tall Tree or Giant Oak. Brother Zimmerman responded with an appropriate acknowledgement of the honor.

Messages of Greeting

Joseph R. Flower read a number of messages of greeting from

retired officers and fraternal organizations as follows: Ernest S. Williams, former general superintendent; Noel Perkin, former secretary of the Division of Foreign Missions; A. Stanley Bursey, general superintendent, Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland; Cecil B. Knight, general overseer, Church of God; Carmine Saginario, general overseer, The Christian Churches of North America; Roland Cosnard, secretary, Assemblies of God of France. A message of greeting was also read from Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Henry J. Meade, Chief of Chaplains, United States Air Force.

A motion prevailed that appropriate messages be sent to these dear friends.

The general superintendent noted that Aaron A. Wilson, retired executive presbyter, had recently undergone knee surgery but was doing very well.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that telegrams be sent to the retired executives who were unable to be present.

Dwight Colbaugh, D-CAP of New Jersey District and a grandson of former General Superintendent Wesley R. Steelberg, sang a medley of songs exalting the name of Jesus.

General Council Committees

The chairman called attention to the program booklet, with particular reference to the local committees and to national and local chairmen:

Budget

Raymond H. Hudson, chairman; E. R. Anderson, Robert E. Goggin, Merle J. Harris, Paul E. Lowenberg, Kermit Reneau, Haskell H. Rogers

Music

L. B. Larsen, chairman; Lester G. Binkley, Jim L. Campbell, Gerald Fortunato, Cyril McLellan, David E. Richards

Parliamentary

R. D. E. Smith, chairman; Charles E. Crank, O. L. Harrup, Sr.

Resolutions

Bartlett Peterson, chairman; Lowell Ashbrook, James K. Bridges, Zeferino R. Cabello, Jr., Charles H. Cookman, Ivar A. Frick, D. V. Hurst, John J. Paproski, Marion F. Ravan, Jr., Stephen Rexroat, Roy H. Wead

Roster

Arthur Berg, chairman; Earl B. Adamson, Clynelle E. Aldridge, Joseph M. Beretta, Anna Berg, David C. Boykin, Gary Chapin,

Michael Ciociola, Ruth Crawford, John L. Eller, George E. Elrod, T. Burt Evans, Mary Ellen Grell, Samuel H. Henning, Gail Howard, Charles O. Kelly, Max C. Linkous, Thomas Ming, Jr., Gregory M. Mundis, Robert L. Nazarenus, David Nelson, Peter Pignaloso, George Rasmussen, Mrs. J. L. Schaffer, Carl Tillery, Mary Waldon, John Wannemacher, H. L. Wigfield, Jr., Maxine Witt, Lamar Woodham

Spiritual Life

Richard W. Dortch, chairman; Edward B. Berkey, David W. Flower, Wesley R. Hurst, Kenneth Mayton, Armon Newburn, William Robertson, Douglas Wead, Thomas F. Zimmerman, C. W. Denton, resource person

Tellers

Roy D. Creamer, chairman; William H. Douglas, captain; J. Donald McManness, captain; Edward D. Thompson, captain; Ronald J. Traub, captain; Floyd J. Ashpole, L. Calvin Bacon, Lloyd R. Bilhimer, Charles E. Blythe, S. L. Broadhead, Clarence Brotzman, Arnold F. Brown, J. Albert Calaway, Craig W. Carter, Carl E. Collins, Lamar Creel, Melvin E. Culbertson, Charles V. Davis, L. W. Dollar, E. R. Driver, J. Stephen Earle, Paul A. Fisher, Ted Gianopulos, Herman R. Grams, Gilbert S. Harris, Robert S. Harris, Ted R. Heaston, Vernon L. Huffey, Herbert E. Hull, Gordon Johnson, Melvin Johnson, Erick Kaiser, Gerritt W. Kenyon, Calvin S. Kirkendall, Elmer E. Kirschman, Donald L. Ladd, Charles Lee, Billy McCarty, William O. McKenzie, Arsenio Martinez, R. W. Masters, Leo Miller, Norman Muhling, Charles Pace, Pettus T. Palmer, Warren J. Piersol, Roy Darrell Pilcher, Glenn Reeves, Eber Reitzel, Donald A. Richardson, Samuel Sanchez, David E. Siriano, L. A. Steller, Richard W. Stierlen, Robert Strand, Francis R. Thomas, John G. Walker, W. Jasper Weaver, E. Joe Wilmoth, Charles E. Wilson, Lester C. Young, Gordon D. Zercher, Sr.

Arrangements

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Thomas F. Zimmerman, Joseph R. Flower, C. W. Denton

Coordinators

C. W. Denton, national; Robert E. Goggin, local

Communion Arrangements

Stan Michael, chairman; Johnnie Barnes

Equipment

Arlyn Pember, national chairman; Ernie Rifenburg, Eldon Anderson, local chairman; Ron Brannan, Richard Holder, Dale Jennings, Glen

Lee, Kenneth N. Stafford, Bob Stuart

Exhibits

Tom Sanders, national chairman; David Johnston, Guy Heath, local chairman; E. D. Bagwell, Johnnie Bennett, J. W. Henegar, Sherman Lofton, David Montgomery

Hotel Coordinator

John Ohlin

Housing, Hospitality, and Transportation

Harris Jansen, national chairman; Lamar Headley, Thomas Loven, Kenneth McGee, local chairman; Ervin Donaldson, Robert Ireton, John Newby, Dan Sheaffer, Charles K. Wilson

Photo

Gwen Jones, chairman; Richard Champion, Sylvia Lee

Platform

Richard Champion, chairman and coordinator; C. T. Beem, L. B. Larsen, Stan Michael, Glenn Renick, Melvin Snyder, Don Upton

Printed Materials

Gary Leggett, chairman; Carol Ball, Gwen Jones

Program

Lee Shultz, chairman; Richard Champion, C. W. Denton, Bill Eastlake, Gwen Jones, L. B. Larsen, Gary Leggett, Juleen Turnage

Publicity

Juleen Turnage, national chairman; R. C. Cunningham, Mel Surface, M. R. Herndon, local chairman; Ronald Hastie, J. D. Keen, Bert Lacy

Resolutions and Reports Expeditor

Hardy Steinberg

Tellers Liaison

T. E. Gannon

Theme

Hardy Steinberg, chairman; Silas Gaither, Ralph Harris, Elva Hoover, Gwen Jones, Lee Shultz

Ushers

Mel DeVries, national chairman; Harold Walls, Al Boykin, local chairman; Charles Freeman, assistant chairman; Fielden Cress, Lawrence Davis, E. W. Holder, Ford Hudson, Terry Lovelady, Virgil Norwood, Bob Walker

Youth and Children's Activities

Silas Gaither, national chairman; Edith Denton, national child care chairman; Tonya Herndon, local child care chairman; Ron Held, national children's activities chairman; Randy Miller, local children's activities chairman; Leon Seaton, Rich Sluder, Francis Van-Beber, H. H. (Spud) DeMent, national youth chairman; Frank Car-gill, local youth chairman; Billy J. Boutwell, Thomas Holder, David H. Moore, Frank Sitcler, Greg Whitlow

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman of the Roster Committee, was introduced and gave the first report of this General Council as of 1:40 p.m. Thursday, as follows:

Ordained ministers	1,430	
Church delegates	535	
Voting constituency		1,965
Licensed ministers	150	
Visitors	1,458	
Nonvoting constituency		1,608
Total		3,573

It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the first report of the Roster Committee.

General Superintendent's Report

The general superintendent turned the chair over to G. Raymond Carlson and then read his report as published in the *Biennial Report* booklet. He called attention to the fact that the Executive Presbytery in its August session had formally adopted the name "Assemblies of God Conference Center" for the property on Scott Street acquired last year. He also noted that the report of the subcommittee to formulate a Master Plan of Education for the Assemblies of God is now before the Executive Presbytery.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report of the general superintendent with appreciation.

Confidence Statement of the General Presbytery

The general secretary read the following statement which had been adopted by the General Presbytery for presentation to the General Council:

WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has enjoyed a position of spiritual, ethical, and moral leadership in the Christian community for more than 60 years; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed this movement with outstanding leadership throughout its existence; and

WHEREAS, The general superintendent has been subjected to allegations, innuendoes, and insinuations including a nationally syndicated newspaper column January 8, 1977, with subsequent articles appearing in various papers across the nation; and

WHEREAS, There has been a thorough investigation by the Executive Presbytery which included:

- (1) A special independent audit of General Council stewardship funds which resulted in certification by the auditors that all funds were intact and that there was no evidence of any irregular disbursements or misappropriations of funds as alleged;
- (2) A progress report made to the General Presbytery in regional caucuses with subsequent findings communicated by mail to all members of the General Presbytery, and

WHEREAS, A complete and open discussion by the General Presbytery in session at the request of the general superintendent led to the disclosure:

- (1) That full divestiture of the general superintendent's holdings in bank stock under question had been consummated by June 1, 1977, and
- (2) That full divestiture of his real estate holding under question had been consummated by April 4, 1977, despite subsequent published reports to the contrary:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the 1977 session of the General Presbytery go on record as expressing satisfaction with the thorough and impartial manner in which the Executive Presbytery conducted its investigation of the aforementioned allegations, and further that we express appreciation for the openness with which the findings have been communicated to the General Presbytery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the absence of any evidence to support the aforementioned allegations, insinuations, and innuendoes, the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in its session of August 1977 go on record as expressing complete confidence in the integrity and leadership of the general superintendent, Thomas F. Zimmerman.

The General Presbytery goes on record as deploring the action of those who choose to bypass the scriptural remedies available within the church for resolving differences between brethren, but who resort to divisive methods to express personal grievances.

The General Presbytery wishes also to go on record that this

statement was voted upon and passed by secret ballot.

At the conclusion of this presentation, the body responded with a spontaneous standing ovation.

Brother Carlson invited the body to sing "To God Be the Glory" as an expression of our feeling for what God has done for us and for the accomplishments under this past biennium. A period of praise and thanksgiving followed.

A motion prevailed that the General Council in session adopt the "Confidence Statement" which was read by the general secretary. The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

Adoption of Agenda

The chairman indicated that the main headings of the agenda are listed in the program booklet on page 9, but that additional items in some of the categories would be forthcoming. It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the agenda as a guide and not as a control.

Report of the General Secretary

General Secretary Joseph R. Flower read his report as it appeared in the printed booklet. His report noted that "the gain in church membership of the biennium (113,363) is the most phenomenal in our entire history, and the largest percentage-wise in the last 20 years. . . . The record number of conversions reported for the past biennium (381,524) was from 6,154 churches."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report be accepted. The chairman expressed appreciation to the general secretary for his excellent services to our Fellowship and the fine report presented.

Report of the General Treasurer

General Treasurer Raymond H. Hudson referred to the three pages in the *Biennial Report* booklet which contain the complete audit and the accompanying statement. For convenience he read from the *Audit Report*. He noted that the monthly per capita giving of church membership to World Ministries Giving averages \$3.82. This was a gain of 51¢ per month per member over a similar report for the previous biennium.

The chairman indicated that the report is a fine one and suggested that the body may wish to give more thorough attention to it. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report be accepted, with the understanding that as we proceed with the business of the General Council it would be appropriate to consider any question which arises that would be germane to the business before us.

The chairman referred to the beautiful picture of the headquarters building on the cover of the *Biennial Report* booklet and noted that it is the building which the general treasurer stated was now debt free.

He stated also that the indebtedness on the six-story International Distribution Center for which \$1,400,000 was borrowed has been reduced as of March 31, 1977, to \$638,000.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

The Chair suggested that time should be taken to read the interesting data contained in the divisional and departmental reports. He indicated that an opportunity would be given on Saturday to answer any questions concerning them and to take action on the reports. By common consent it was indicated that this matter will be handled accordingly.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to recess the business session until 10 a.m. Friday. Following singing of the Doxology, Aaron Wall, Georgia District superintendent dismissed in prayer.

THURSDAY EVENING—KEYNOTE RALLY

The keynote message was brought by Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent. His message emphasized the lordship of Christ. David L. Boren, governor of the State of Oklahoma brought greetings to the General Council and welcomed the General Council to the State of Oklahoma. John Ashcroft, Missouri attorney general, sang the national anthem following the presentation of colors.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 19

The Friday morning meeting convened at 8:45 a.m. Joseph R. Flower, general secretary, presided over the devotional period. James Campbell led the congregation in singing several choruses: "Clap Your Hands, All Ye People," "I Am Thine, Oh Lord," "The Haven of Rest," "In My Heart There Rings a Melody," and "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart." Brother Flower read Ephesians 6:10-18, followed with prayer by Philip Wannenmacher of Springfield, Missouri. Special music was presented by Fred Church and The Spirituals from Bethalto, Illinois, and by Bud Tutmarc of Seattle, Washington, for the offertory. Appreciation was expressed to Judy Warren of Pensacola, Florida, and Gloria Argue of Santa Rosa, California, for their ministry at the piano and organ.

Hardy Steinberg, national director of the Division of Christian Education, brought the morning devotional message, using Colossians 1:9-18 as his Scripture reading. His theme was "He Is Worthy of Preeminence," noting that (1) Jesus is God, (2) Jesus is the Firstborn, (3) Jesus is the Head of the Church.

The business session was called to order at 9:55 a.m. Marvin Snyder was asked to lead in prayer, especially remembering Don Cox, pastor in Pensacola, Florida, who was very ill.

Parliamentary Committee Recognized

The chairman recognized the members of the Parliamentary Committee, who were seated on the platform: R. D. E. Smith, executive presbyter; Charles Crank, Indiana District superintendent; and O. L. Harrup, Sr., president, Valley Forge Christian College.

Election Procedural Motion

A procedural motion was presented, and duly seconded, requesting that elections begin at 11 o'clock. The motion was voted on and declared carried with a two-thirds vote.

Summary Report: Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification

An item of unfinished business from the 1975 General Council with regard to "Safeguarding the Assemblies" had been referred to a committee for study, along with other closely related matters. Edward B. Berkey, chairman, brought a summary report from the committee which follows:

Since the 1975 General Council, the committee of which I was chairman has carefully addressed itself to three closely related areas in reference to the actions of the General Presbytery and the General Council. The assignments were as follows:

1. To make recommendations relative to eliminating the word *sovereign* from our General Council Constitution;
2. To respond to the action of referral as directed by the General Council for Resolution #16, namely, the relationship between churches, districts, and the General Council; and the proposed amendment to Bylaws Article VI, Section 8, "Safeguarding the Assemblies"; and
3. To define clearly a district affiliated church and a General Council affiliated church and to also set forth the proper procedural pattern to become a General Council affiliated church.

Fulfilling the directive of the 1975 General Council that "an equal number of pastors be represented on the committee," by Executive Presbytery appointment, the committee was comprised of four pastors, three district superintendents, one college president, and our former general secretary. These men not only represented various geographical areas but they reflected divergent philosophies relating to the subject matter of our assignments. I am deeply appreciative of their great concern for the well-being of our Fellowship, their sensitivity to what they believe the majority of you desire, and above all their willingness to be directed of the Holy Spirit in these crucial matters.

The portion of the assignment called for by the General Pres-

bytery in 1975 was presented to the 1976 session of the General Presbytery. During consideration of the committee report, some amendments were made. A motion then prevailed to refer the report to the General Council for its consideration and action.

In compliance with the directive of the 1975 General Council, the report was prepared for mailing to the constituency May 2, 1977.

Inasmuch as the major portion of the committee report comes as a referral from the General Presbytery and is thus new business to the General Council, as chairman of the committee, I move that the matter of unfinished business, namely, "Safeguarding the Assemblies," be postponed until new business is presented so that the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws can be presented and considered in their proper sequence.

The motion contained in the report was seconded and carried.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman of the Roster Committee, presented the following report as of 9:30 a.m.:

Ordained ministers	3,010
Delegates	<u>1,105</u>
Voting constituency	4,115
Licensed ministers	284
Visitors	<u>2,378</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>2,662</u>
Total	6,777

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

Report of Committee To Study Superannuation of Ministers

Another item of unfinished business, referred to a study committee from the 1975 General Council, concerned the superannuation of ministers. O. L. Harrup, Sr., chairman, read the report of the committee, as contained in the *Committee Reports* booklet. He also read the names of the committee members who were O. L. Harrup, Sr., chairman; Ward R. Williams, secretary; T. C. Cunningham; G. Edward Mandel, Jr.; and Dwight H. McLaughlin.

A motion prevailed that the report be adopted.

The report as adopted follows:

This committee was appointed by the Executive Presbytery to study an item of unfinished business of the 36th General Council, which had been presented as Resolution 5. Superannuated Ministers (p. 28, 1975 GCM). The committee met February 24,

1977, in Springfield, Missouri, with three of its five members present.

The history of the subject of superannuation was reviewed. Definitions for the words *superannuated*, *senior*, and related terms were studied, as was directed by the General Council in its motion of referral.

As a result of its discussion and study the committee submits the following resolution:

WHEREAS, In recent years an increasing percentage of Assemblies of God ministers and missionaries have reached the age of 65, and statistics seem to imply that 25 percent of our present missionary personnel will reach 65 within the decade of 1976-86; and

WHEREAS, Some who are active in ministry have objected to the negative implications of the term *superannuated*; and

WHEREAS, Some credential holders, who continue to be actively engaged in ministry in varying degrees, have sought to be registered as *superannuated* and many have mistakenly interpreted the term *superannuated* to mean they are relieved of the responsibility of submitting annual reports and of paying \$3 per month to support the General Council executive offices; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 9, of the General Council bylaws be amended by the following substitution:

Section 9. Senior Ministers

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders who have reached the age of 65, whether they continue in full-time ministry or not.

a. *Terminology*

- (1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve three-quarters to full time in the ministry.
- (2) The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half time or less.
- (3) The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

b. *Application for recognition as being senior-semiretired or senior-retired*

Senior-semiretired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secre-

tary shall forward annually to the general secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

c. *Guidelines*

- (1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.
- (2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from his ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.
- (3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status appropriately indicated in the Official List of Assemblies of God ministers.
- (4) *Support of General Council headquarters.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate \$3 monthly to the support of the General Council headquarters. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

d. *Limitations of this Section 9*

- (1) The definitions and decisions included in Section 9 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official legislation under which their members serve.
- (2) No part of Section 9 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the Biblical responsibility for tithing.

Department of Chaplains

Article XVI. Section 5

The general secretary presented information concerning another item of unfinished business having to do with the Department of Chaplains as follows:

The 1975 General Council referred Resolution 4 (as revised) on the subject of the Department of Chaplains "to the Executive Presbytery and the Home Missions Board for study as to its relationship to the total operation within the Division of Home Missions, with presentation to be made to the 1977 General Council" (page 50, 1975 GCM).

In response to this assignment, revisions were made to the entire bylaw which provides for the various departments within the Division of Home Missions.

To expedite the business of this General Council session, it is felt that the proposed revision to the Department of Chaplains should be considered in its proper sequence within Bylaw Article XVI. Division of Home Missions. For this reason, it is moved that this item of unfinished business be postponed until the proposed amendments to Bylaw Article XVI are considered as a matter of new business.

The motion as contained in the report was seconded and carried.

Executive Presbytery—Role, Function, and Selection

The chairman read the names of the study committee members, as follows: Joseph R. Flower, chairman; Robert Gatlin, secretary; W. E. Cummings; James E. Hamill; Herman H. Rohde. The general secretary was requested to present the report. The report is as follows:

The assignment given to the committee covered the following three areas:

1. Definition of Role and Function
2. The Manner of Selection
3. Alignment of Districts

DEFINITION OF ROLE AND FUNCTION

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute a Board of Directors, performing such functions as usual and customary in the use of the term. (Constitution, Article IX, Section 2b, page 82.)

The role and function of the Executive Presbytery is basically defined in Article III of the Bylaws, Section 6 a-k.

The duties of the executive presbyter are different from those of a district sectional presbyter in that the sectional presbyter represents the section and has authority within the sectional structure.

The executive presbyter is authorized as a functional General Council officer, not an authorized functioning regional executive within a regional structure. The executive presbyter works under the chairman of the Executive Presbytery and is not directly over a given region but represents the Movement as a whole.

Districts within a region have superintendents as their chief executive officers and each district is represented by three general presbyters in the General Presbytery, which body is over the Executive Presbytery.

THE MANNER OF SELECTION

After deliberation and consideration of the various alternatives of selection, the committee goes on record as favoring the present system as prescribed in the Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, page 85.

ALIGNMENT OF DISTRICTS

The stated philosophy of the General Council has been and continues to be: "That for the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, the General Council shall be divided into eight areas according to district boundaries."

1. The election of nonresident executive presbyters is the only stated purpose for this alignment.
2. To reshuffle a few districts would throw the whole voting alignment of districts out of proportion. One area would greatly increase, another decrease, thus creating representational imbalance.
3. As feasible as it may seem in some cases, the areas were not organized for the purpose of association with or ownership of schools. Basically, schools are owned by districts and not by areas.

Since the committee recommends no changes in the manner of selection, the composition and structure of the area should remain as created, and exist for the stated purpose.

One recommendation the committee would make in the area of the role and function is, that the executive presbyters be considered as representatives of the General Council and that they be invited by districts to various functions, to represent the General Council in creating harmony, goodwill, and understanding among the districts and areas.

A motion prevailed that the report of the committee be adopted.

The general secretary noted a correction to the information contained in the report just adopted. The statement, "The election of nonresident executive presbyters is the only stated purpose for this alignment," is not correct. He noted that these areas prevail for various boards and committees.

Resolutions Committee Recognized

The chairman recognized Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and requested that other members of the committee be seated on the platform. The Resolutions Committee members

are Bartlett Peterson, chairman; Lowell Ashbrook, James K. Bridges, Zeferino R. Cabello, Jr., Charles H. Cookman, Ivar A. Frick, D. V. Hurst, John J. Paproski, Marion F. Ravan, Jr., Stephen Rexroat, Roy H. Wead.

Resolution 1. Amendment to Articles of Agreement

It was noted that inasmuch as The General Council of the Assemblies of God is incorporated as a religious educational organization under the statutes of the State of Missouri, and it now becomes obvious that an amendment is necessary, this resolution is brought in compliance with regulations of the State of Missouri.

The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD is a religious organization, organized under the provisions of Article 10 of Chapter 33 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1909, and under a Decree of the Circuit Court in and for the City of St. Louis, Missouri, duly entered on the 10th day of October, 1916, in the records of said Court (a certified copy of the Articles of Association and of said Decree being filed and recorded in the Corporation Book Number 54 at page 458 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for said City of St. Louis, Missouri); and

WHEREAS, The said THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD has heretofore amended its Articles of Agreement by Decree of the Circuit Court in and for the City of St. Louis, Missouri, as duly entered in said Court on the 26th day of September, 1919 (a certified copy of said Amendment and Decree being filed and recorded in the Corporation Book Number 64 at page 203 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for said City of St. Louis, Missouri); and

WHEREAS, The said THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD has further amended its Articles of Agreement by Decree of the Circuit Court in and for Greene County, Missouri, duly entered on the 23rd day of August 1965, in Division 2 of said Circuit Court and recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office, Greene County, Missouri, on the same date; and

WHEREAS, The said THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, has not provided for distribution of its assets in the event of its cessation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter; and

WHEREAS, The said THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, is dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes as declared in its aforesaid Articles of Agreement, and has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That said Articles of Agreement shall be amended, and they are hereby amended, by the adding of a new paragraph, designated "5th," which shall read as follows:

5th. The assets of the corporation are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, as declared heretofore in its Articles of Agreement, and in the event of liquidation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the Corporation, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets will be distributed to a non-profit organization or to non-profit organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section the organizations shall have established tax exempt status.

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted.

Due to the fact that 11 a.m. had arrived, the election of the general superintendent was called for.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 10:50 a.m.:

Ordained ministers	3,253	
Delegates	<u>1,219</u>	
Voting constituency		4,472
Licensed ministers	309	
Visitors	<u>2,569</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>2,878</u>
Total		7,350

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

Election of General Superintendent

The chair was turned to Assistant General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson to preside during the election of the general superintendent.

A procedural motion was made and seconded that in the casting of ballots in all elections, if any person receives two-thirds or more on the nominating ballot he shall be declared elected. The motion was voted upon and declared carried.

Ballots were distributed for the election of general superintendent. The general secretary read the constitution and bylaws provisions regarding the election of officers. Following prayer by Wiley Davis of

Tallahassee, Florida, ballots were cast for the office of general superintendent for a 4-year term.

Resolution 1. Amendment to Articles of Agreement (continued)

Brother Zimmerman resumed the chairmanship of the business session. Discussion was continued on Resolution 1.

It was moved and seconded to amend the last paragraph on page 2, line 13, by substituting the words *reserve these monies to go to sister organizations which are sympathetic with the doctrines of the Assemblies of God*.

After discussion the motion to amend was voted on and declared lost.

The motion to adopt resolution 1 was voted on and declared carried.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification Committee Report

Copies of the report were distributed. The report had been mailed to the constituency on May 2. Edward B. Berkey, chairman of the study committee, read the report. One change was noted in paragraph 2, page 1, lines 4 and 5. Instead of the words "this body" the term should be *General Presbytery*. The report was read in its entirety as follows:

Our committee, appointed by the Executive Presbytery, was asked to consider three closely related areas in reference to the actions of the General Presbytery and the General Council. They were:

1. Make recommendations relative to eliminating the word *sovereign* from our General Council Bylaws.
2. Respond to the action of referral to this committee as proposed by the General Council of Resolution 16, namely, the relationship between churches, district, and the General Council.
3. Consider bylaw changes as related to the above, as well as clearly defining a district affiliated church and a General Council affiliated church and to also set forth the proper procedural pattern to becoming a General Council affiliated church.

Through the Ministers Letter our Fellowship was given opportunity to respond to these important areas. Your committee met on two different occasions in Springfield and sought to diligently and prayerfully address itself to this assignment. Undoubtedly, our greatest attention was given to the request of the General Presbytery to consider deleting the word *sovereignty*

from our constitution. Sympathetically, we faced the increasing problem of the manner in which sovereignty, as it has been traditionally understood by the majority of our Fellowship, has sometimes been challenged in our courts. We availed ourselves of the effective service of the research area of our headquarters so that we might review the philosophy of the founding fathers and the manner in which the word *sovereignty* has been understood by our Fellowship.

We carefully considered the advisability of changing our constitution to read "autonomy" instead of "sovereignty," but we found Webster's Dictionary defined the word *autonomy* in language as strong as the word *sovereignty*. We also recognized that our Fellowship has been most reluctant to make any changes in our traditional position and phraseology.

Therefore, it was the decision of the committee to retain the word *sovereignty* in our constitution and seek to define it as expressed by our Fellowship.

We, therefore, set forth these proposed changes to our constitution and bylaws:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated 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.

The local assembly shall be set in order and become part of the work of the district council and General Council. It should support the district and General Council organizations and may send delegates to the district and General Councils.

Each local assembly has the right to 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 and/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, however, shall not

construe its sovereignty and local autonomy to negate the authority of the district council or the General Council as agreed upon from time to time by the General Council in session. The local assembly shall recognize that a district council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right and authority:

- a. To approve scriptural doctrine and conduct;
- b. To disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, as stated in ARTICLE III, paragraph f., of the constitution; and
- c. To withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary.

The aforesaid is a part of the setting in order of the local assembly.

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.

Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

Provision shall be made by the district councils for district affiliated assemblies which may at a later date proceed to the status of General Council affiliated assemblies. These assemblies shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

Section 3. World Ministries Participation

Local assemblies are expected to make regular contributions to world ministries of the Assemblies of God.

BYLAWS ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation

It shall be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons. The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

a. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the district in which it is situated. The district council shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.

b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the district who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and bylaws acceptable to the district.

c. An existing, mature church which desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the district council for guidance and assistance.

d. Upon approval by the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall be regarded as completed upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation to be issued by the general secretary.

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

Unreliable and questionable ministers go about seeking entrance into assemblies without any recommendation; therefore, all pastors should make proper investigation regarding persons not known to them, and the platform be denied strangers until proper recommendations be forthcoming. Since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship, it is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers. Pastors and district officials should maintain a reciprocal exchange of information relative to unreliable persons seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 4. Relationship of Churches to District and General Council

a. The district council, acting through its duly elected officers, shall have general supervision over all the ministers and churches of the district. For purposes of safeguarding the church from internal difficulties, or deviations in doctrine and conduct, the district has the prerogative and responsibility of entrance into an assembly for giving counsel and advice. When in need of assistance and guidance, the local assembly should seek the aid

of the district officary.

b. In instances where the peace and well-being of a church are threatened, the district shall have the right to assume the supervision of the church on a temporary basis until such time as order and harmony have been restored, provided, however, that the assumption of such supervision shall be requested by a majority of the members present and voting at a duly called business meeting presided over by a district official.

c. In instances when the district officary has rendered a decision which is unacceptable, members of the local church may appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with provision for petition as contained within the constitution and bylaws of the local church. Such an appeal shall be filed within 30 days of the notification of the district decision, with both the district superintendent and the general superintendent. 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.

d. If the district for some reason has not taken action in a local assembly where a problem exists which requires attention, the Executive Presbytery 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 church is affiliated. In the event the district fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to take action.

Section 5. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies

When an annual questionnaire for a General Council affiliated church reflects that its active voting membership has dropped below 20, the church shall be notified, at the discretion of the district officers, that unless the membership is increased to a minimum requirement of 20 active voting members within 1 year, the church shall revert to district affiliated status. When such action is taken, the district office shall notify the general secretary of the General Council and the local church. The church shall remain in a district affiliated status until sufficient growth and maturity has been demonstrated to qualify for General Council affiliation. An application for same shall be filed with the district secretary and approved by the district presbytery.

Section 6. New Assemblies Resulting from a Division

a. When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the district should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts, and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and district policy, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

b. Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with him as provided in Article IX, Section 2, of the bylaws.

Section 7. Transfer of Local Church Membership

a. It is recommended that the member shall request a letter of introduction from the church of which he is a member to be sent by mail to the church with which he wishes to affiliate.

b. It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

The foregoing recommendations are respectfully submitted with the earnest prayer they will contribute to the strengthening of our Fellowship and the increase of the blessing of the Lord upon us all.

Brother Berkey expressed appreciation to the other members of the committee, which consisted of Edward B. Berkey, chairman; Robert E. Goggin, James E. Hamill, J. Foy Johnson, Arthur H. Parsons, Bartlett Peterson, Roy G. Sapp, Robert H. Spence, Oliver E. Summers.

A motion prevailed that the report be received.

Election of General Superintendent

The chair was turned to the assistant general superintendent. The chairman of the Tellers Committee, Roy Creamer, was asked to report the results of the nominating ballot for the office of general superintendent:

Votes cast	3,399
Needed to elect	2,266
Thomas F. Zimmerman received	2,700

The chairman declared Thomas F. Zimmerman reelected as general superintendent for another 4-year term. A prolonged standing

ovation was given to Brother Zimmerman.

The Tellers Committee presented the following list of all those nominated:

R. E. Book, Roland Bordon, Tom Calk, G. A. Carlson, G. R. Carlson, R. J. Carlson, Glen Cole, C. Crabtree, Charles Crank, N. D. Davidson, Richard Dortch, Joseph R. Flower, T. E. Gannon, Robert Goggin, James Hamill, O. Harrup, J. Philip Hogan, Raymond Hudson, Cecil Janway, Foy Johnson, Paul Lowenberg, James McKeehan, D. H. McLaughlin, Darrel Musgrove, Arthur Parsons, Bartlett Peterson, Kermit Reneau, A. L. Shell, Jr., Hardy Steinberg, C. M. Ward, Roy Wead, Nelson White, E. Joe Wilmoth, Joe Wright, William Vickery

Brother Carlson announced that Brother and Sister Zimmerman would be properly presented as the first order of business in the afternoon session.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting recess until 2 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m., with Norman Wenig dismissing in prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 19

David Richards opened the afternoon session by leading in singing "It Is Well With My Soul" and "I Love Him." Don and Norma Tanner of Minneapolis, Minnesota, were at the piano and organ respectively. George W. Hardcastle, Sr., retired executive presbyter, led in prayer for God's guidance in the afternoon business session.

The general superintendent made a special presentation of the fraternal delegate courtesy packet to Bruno Militano, representative of the New York International Bible Society.

Acceptance Speech of General Superintendent

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman pro tem, called the afternoon business session to order at 2:12 p.m. and stated that just before the morning recess it had been announced that Thomas F. Zimmerman was reelected general superintendent for a 4-year term. Rev. and Mrs. Paul Tinlin, son-in-law and daughter of the Zimmermans escorted Mrs. Zimmerman to the platform. The newly reelected general superintendent was honored by a standing ovation.

In his acceptance of reelection to the office of general superintendent, Brother Zimmerman expressed his appreciation for the Spirit-anointed prayers that had gone up throughout the Fellowship for the Lord's leading at the General Council, which he felt were answered. He looked upon the vote that was cast as giving him a sense of direction. He paid special tribute to the members of the General Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery for their integrity and the

undergirding they have provided. He stated, "My commitment to God and to you is that all there is of me I want to make available for the purposes of God's will. I will not close my eyes to areas that are my responsibility. With a dedication of purpose and a sincere expression of my unparalleled need of God for wisdom and help, I accept the vote of your confidence and the election which you have extended to me. Thank you very much!"

Brother Carlson offered congratulations on behalf of his wife and himself and stated that he knew he spoke "for the entire Executive Presbytery and for thousands of friends who would like to join in prayer in behalf of the first family of the Assemblies of God and for the general superintendent who for another 4 years will give us leadership." He invited James Hamill, executive presbyter and pastor at Memphis, Tennessee, to lead in prayer.

The chair was returned to General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman, presented the report of the Roster Committee as of 1:45 p.m. as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,518
Church delegates	<u>1,294</u>
Voting constituency	4,812
Licensed ministers	329
Visitors	<u>2,791</u>
Nonvoting constituency	3,120
Total	7,932

A motion prevailed that the report be accepted.

Distribution of Confidence Statement

It was requested that copies of the "Confidence Statement" from the General Presbytery which was adopted by the General Council be made available. The chairman indicated that copies would be produced and made available.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

The nominating ballot was cast for the office of assistant general superintendent.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee, Roy D. Creamer, was asked to report the results of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Votes cast	3,099
Needed to elect	2,666
G. Raymond Carlson received	2,853

The chairman declared G. Raymond Carlson reelected as assistant general superintendent, having received well above the two-thirds vote required. The chairman of the Tellers Committee read the list of all those nominated:

E. R. Anderson, R. E. Book, James K. Bridges, Tom Calk, G. Raymond Carlson, R. J. Carlson, Lester Carlson, E. M. Clark, J. Wesley Clark, Charles Cookman, Charles Crank, Richard Dortch, N. D. Davidson, H. Davis, J. T. Davis, Wiley T. Davis, W. W. Flemming, David Flower, Joseph Flower, T. E. Gannon, Joseph Gerhart, Robert Goggin, James Griggs, James Hamilton, James Hamill, Guy Heath, J. Philip Hogan, Raymond Hudson, Gene Jackson, Foy Johnson, Arvid Kingsriter, E. J. Kumpe, Paul Lowenberg, D. H. McLaughlin, Armon Newburn, A. H. Parsons, Alan G. Phillips, Bartlett Peterson, Kermit Reneau, William Robertson, D. Leroy Sanders, Roy Sapp, Karl Strader, Robert Spence, H. Steinberg, C. M. Touchstone, William Vickery, Aaron Wall, Roy Wead, Bert Webb.

A standing ovation for Brother Carlson followed his reelection. The chairman expressed appreciation to God for Brother Carlson's most valued contribution to the work of our beloved Movement.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification (continued)

A motion prevailed that the proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws be considered section by section.

It was moved and seconded to adopt page 2, lines 10-14, of the proposed amendment.

It was moved and seconded that the resolution in its entirety be rereferred to the appropriate committee and that the chair in its discretion bring in lay leadership which can help formulate this with the view of the local church in mind and that this be brought back at the next General Council of the Assemblies of God for full review, having had the representation of all those who ultimately will be involved in it. In the discussion which followed the sentiment was expressed that much prayer had been given to this document and it ought to remain available for consideration by this body. The motion to refer was lost.

It was moved and seconded that page 2, line 11, be amended by striking out the words "part of" and substituting the words *cooperative with*. After considerable discussion, the motion was carried.

The motion to adopt page 2, lines 10-14, as amended was carried.

A point of order was called for. The chairman explained that it was his understanding that we would consider the entire article in small segments and afterward consider it as a whole, at which time further changes can be made.

A motion prevailed to amend page 3, lines 3-7, by deleting the

sentence: "The local assembly, however, shall not construe its sovereignty and local autonomy to negate the authority of the district council or the General Council as agreed upon from time to time by the General Council in session."

Election of General Secretary

The nominating ballot was cast for the office of general secretary.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee, Roy D. Creamer, was asked to report the results of the nominating ballot for the office of general secretary:

Votes cast	2,993
Needed to elect	1,996
Joseph R. Flower received	2,731

The chairman declared Joseph R. Flower reelected as general secretary having received well above the two-thirds vote required. The chairman of the Tellers Committee read the list of all those nominated:

Joe Adams, E. R. Anderson, W. F. Blakely, Roy Creamer, Charles Crank, Hugh Corey, N.D. Davidson, R. Dortch, R. Dresselhaus, Albert Earle, Gayle Erwin, David Flower, Joseph R. Flower, T. E. Gannon, James Griggs, J. E. Hamill, Obie Harrup, Guy Heath, Cliff Hobson, J. Philip Hogan, Raymond Hudson, Foy Johnson, Jerry King, Ernest Kumpe, Fred Leader, J. B. Lowrey, Wilbur Mandigo, B. R. Minton, James Moley, Mike Murdock, J. A. Neal, Leonard Nipper, Arthur Parsons, Bartlett Peterson, Kermit Reneau, W. H. Robertson, Herman Rohde, Leroy Sanders, David Savage, R. Schmidgall, Fred Smolchuck, Robert Spence, Ed Spinola, Hardy Steinberg, Oliver Summers, James Swanson, N.C. Tapp, Floyd Tate, G. A. Thompson, Loren Triplett, William Vickery, Aaron Wall, Roy Wead, Bert Webb, George Wood, Joe Wright.

Offering

Merle J. Harris, Arkansas District superintendent, gave the appeal for the afternoon offering. The Tanner Team presented a violin and clarinet duet for the offertory, "There's Healing in the Name of Jesus."

Election of General Treasurer

The chairman requested the general secretary to read the bylaw provision governing the election of the general treasurer and to present the report from the General Presbytery. He reported that in keeping with the provision of the bylaws, the General Presbytery has nominated Raymond H. Hudson for the office of general treasurer. The first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer was cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the results of the first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Votes cast	1,974
Needed to elect	1,316
Raymond H. Hudson received	1,939

Upon hearing the report of the Tellers Committee the chairman declared Raymond H. Hudson reelected to the office of general treasurer.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification (continued)

A motion prevailed that the proposed Section 1, Article XI, of the constitution be adopted as twice amended.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed amendment to Section 2, Article XI, of the constitution as indicated on page 4, lines 1-7, of the report.

It was moved and seconded to amend Section 2 by deleting the sentence beginning on line 5: "These assemblies shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws." The motion was voted upon and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend by substitution on page 4, lines 5 and 6, by striking out the words "under supervision of" and inserting the words *in cooperative fellowship with*. This motion was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend by inserting the word *non-sovereign* after the word "affiliated" on line 3, page 4.

It was moved and seconded to amend the proposed amendment by inserting on page 4, line 1, the word *sponsored* after "District Council" and on line 3 the words *council sponsored* so that in both places it will read: "District Council sponsored affiliated assemblies."

The Friday afternoon meeting of the General Council recessed at 5 p.m. with singing the Doxology after which D. H. McLaughlin, executive presbyter from the Southwest Area, dismissed in prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 19

The Friday evening service was under the direction of Richard W. Dortch, executive presbyter of the Great Lakes Area. Robert Schmidgall, pastor, Calvary Temple, Naperville, Illinois, was the speaker for the service which emphasized home missions. The theme for the service was: "He Is Worthy . . . I Will Serve Him."

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 20

General Council Prayer Breakfast

The General Council Prayer Breakfast was held in the Skirvin Hotel on Saturday, August 20, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Theme for the breakfast was "Walk in Truth . . . Thy Word Is Truth." G. Raymond Carlson, assistant general superintendent, served as chairman. The invocation was read in unison from Psalm 119:33-40. Jim Campbell, song leader, led in the singing of "Jesus, Be the Lord of All," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "God Is So Good." Marty Gould served as organist. Special music was presented by the Letters of Life Quartet, Fred and Sharon Meeks and Don and Faith Dunlap, from Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Harold Lindsell, editor of *Christianity Today*, was the featured speaker. Referring to the Laodicean Church, he cited the danger which comes to every group of God's people when they become mature and suggested that we all check up on ourselves. His message centered around five questions: Are you a member of the company of (1) the converted, (2) the committed, (3) the Spirit-filled, (4) the brokenhearted, and (5) the compassionate?

Following the message, prayer time stressed personal and corporate commitment to the Word (1) in our lives, (2) in our homes, (3) in our churches, (4) in our institutions, and (5) in our mission. Prayers for each of these areas were led by Robert Bruder, national chairman, Light-for-the-Lost; Mrs. Paul Lowenberg, Kansas District Women's Ministries president; Roland Hastie, pastor, Capitol Hill Assembly, Oklahoma City; D. R. Guynes, executive vice-president, Assemblies of God Graduate School; and Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God.

United reading of Psalm 119:10-16 was the benediction.

Saturday Morning Business

The business session opened with the singing of "When We All Get to Heaven" and "His Name Is Wonderful," led by David Richards. Pianist and organist were Mrs. Margot Zilch, Battle Creek, Michigan; and Paul Bailey, Oklahoma City, respectively. Frank McAllister, superintendent of the Northwest District, led in prayer.

A visual was presented introducing *Woman's Touch*, a new magazine for women produced by the Women's Ministries Department.

Prayer for the business session was offered by W. E. Cummings, superintendent of the Arizona District.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman of the Roster Committee, presented the report as of 10 a.m.:

Ordained ministers	3,754
Delegates	<u>1,368</u>
Voting constituency	5,122
Licensed ministers	376
Visitors	<u>3,380</u>
Nonvoting constituency	3,756
Total	<u>8,878</u>

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

The chairman requested the general secretary to read the bylaw provision governing the election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions and to present the report from the General Presbytery. He reported that in keeping with the provision of the bylaws, the General Presbytery has nominated J. Philip Hogan for the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. The first elective ballot for the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions was cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions:

Total votes cast	2,358
Needed to elect	1,572
J. Philip Hogan received	2,222

The chairman noted that J. Philip Hogan received well above the two-thirds vote required to elect and declared him reelected as executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification Committee Report (continued)

The chairman reviewed the action thus far on the report of the study committee. It was noted that at the time of recess Friday afternoon an amendment had been offered to insert the word *non-sovereign* after the words "district affiliated" on page 4, line 3. An amendment to the amendment had also been offered to insert on page 4, line 1, the word *sponsored* after "District Council" and on line 3 the words *council sponsored* so that in both places it will read: "District Council sponsored affiliated assemblies."

It was moved and seconded to refer the report back to a committee, which is broadly based and representative of the concerns and interests that have been expressed and would include knowledgeable lay personnel, for further study and report back to this General Council 2 years hence. The motion to refer the report to a committee was voted upon and declared carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive Presbytery appoint a nine-man committee—five members of whom are pastors (who are not general presbyters), two laymen, and two general presbyters.

With reference to the referral of the report to a committee, the question was raised if this concerned the whole report. The chairman stated that it would. A further question was asked if the sections already voted upon would not become an action of the body, since they had been voted upon. The chairman stated that he would interpret it as a progressive action which was subject to review at the time the entire report would come up for a vote of approval.

A substitute motion was made and seconded to include four laymen and five pastors, two of whom would be general presbyters and three who would not, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

An amendment to the substitute motion was made and seconded that the committee be comprised of three laymen, three pastors, and three district officials. The motion to amend the substitute motion was lost.

Discussion then resumed on the substitute motion, which stated the committee is to be comprised of four laymen and five pastors, two of whom would be general presbyters and two who would not, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

Another substitute motion was offered that the committee be comprised of five pastors, who are not members of the General Presbytery, four laymen, and two district officers (who are members of the General Presbytery). This substitute motion was voted upon and declared carried.

A motion prevailed that the report of the committee be mailed to the constituency at least 90 days prior to the next General Council.

Great Lakes Executive Presbyter

Ballots were distributed for the election of the executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. The general secretary read the names of nominees and ballots were cast for the following: Charles E. Crank, Richard W. Dortch, James C. Ellis, Ivar A. Frick, Arthur H. Parsons, and Irvin G. Steiding.

North Central Executive Presbyter

Ballots were distributed for the election of the executive presbyter from the North Central Area. The general secretary read the names of the nominees and ballots were cast for the following: Harley W. Olson, S. H. Petersen, Albert W. Pettet, Herman H. Rohde, Allan L. Ullestad, Roy Wead, and James D. Wilkins.

Northeast Executive Presbyter

Ballots were distributed for the election of the executive presbyter

from the Northeast Area. The general secretary read the names of those who had been nominated and ballots were cast for the following: Samuel DiTrollo, Rayder O. Jacobsen, John G. Leardi, Wallace P. Odum, John Paproski, R. D. E. Smith, and Russell Williams.

Report of Committee To Study the Matter of Nonconformity of District Constitutions and Bylaws With the General Council Constitution and Bylaws

The general secretary read the report of the committee appointed to study the Nonconformity of District Constitutions and Bylaws with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws as follows:

The committee authorized by the 1975 General Council to study the nonconformity of district constitutions and bylaws with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws was also charged with the responsibility of compiling a list of violations, and that such violations were to be called to the attention of the district presbytery of the districts involved.

This has necessitated a colossal amount of work for the members of the committee. Each of the constitutions and bylaws of the 55 districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God has been reviewed in the light of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws. It has also required the translation of the documents of the six Spanish-speaking districts from Spanish into English.

The committee's findings relative to violations and omissions have been passed on to the respective districts for their consideration. To further assist the districts, the "Criteria Employed by the Study Committee" in pinpointing areas where possible conflicts might exist was also provided.

Furthermore, a suggested format for a District Constitution and Bylaws was included. This was not done with the intent of attempting to write a constitution and bylaws for the districts, but only to pinpoint areas needing attention and to assist in achieving conformity with the provisions and stipulations of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

It is recognized that the manner in which constitutions and bylaws are developed is sometimes the reason for lack of clarity, poor format, and even possible conflicts within the district framework as well as with General Council principles and policies. It would be in good order for the districts to authorize a Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee at regular intervals.

Two suggestions that could be helpful: (1) Provide headings in bolder type indicating the subject matter of sections and subsections, for greater clarification; and (2) In a Table of Contents or

Index give either an outline of the constitution and bylaws or the page on which various items can be found.

The committee concurs with the caution expressed by the Chair at the time this committee was authorized. He stated: "... the best discipline is self-discipline. Beyond the work that any committee would be called upon to do is the work that can best be done within the districts themselves. Each district ought to do some careful self-study."

A motion prevailed that the report be received.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationship, and Classification Committee

With reference to the selection of members for the committee on sovereignty just approved, it was suggested that at least two of the pastors selected should have distinguished themselves in the area of Biblical Studies relative to the New Testament Church.

It was asked if the names of the committee members would be printed in the Ministers Letter, and if an invitation for contributions for the consideration of the committee would be given. The chairman indicated that this would be done.

The morning business session was recessed at 12 noon with the singing of the Doxology. The dismissal prayer was prayed by Willie Millsaps, one of the ministers present at the founding of the Assemblies of God in 1914 in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 20

Jim Campbell led in singing "By My Spirit," and "The Lion of Judah" to open the afternoon business session. Mrs. Lena Mae Leach, instructor, Trinity Bible Institute, Ellendale, North Dakota, was at the piano and Dawn Crabtree, pastor's wife, First Assembly of God, Des Moines, Iowa, at the organ. H. W. Thiemann, administrator of Hillcrest Children's Home, Hot Springs, Arkansas, led in prayer.

Brother Zimmerman introduced G. Edward Nelson, Jr., an Assemblies of God minister and associate secretary in the National Distribution Department of the American Bible Society, who brought fraternal greetings.

A brief visual on *Turning Point* releases was presented.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg, chairman, gave the following report as of 2 p.m.

Ordained ministers	3,809
Delegates	<u>1,394</u>
Voting constituency	5,203
Licensed ministers	393
Visitors	<u>3,573</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>3,966</u>
Total	9,169

It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report.

Procedural Motion

It was moved and seconded that no more than three persons in favor of and no more than three persons opposed to a proposal or an amendment be allowed to address this Council, except in the case where someone has something germane to the issue. This motion was lost.

Election Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

The results of the first elective ballot for the selection of an executive presbyter from the North Central Area were reported as follows:

Total votes cast	2,491
Needed to elect	1,661
Harley W. Olson	141
S. H. Petersen	166
Albert W. Pettet	97
Herman H. Rohde	384
Allan L. Ullestad	87
Roy Wead	1,530
James D. Wilkins	85
Other	1

There was no election on the first elective ballot. The chairman asked that a plain ballot be distributed for use as the second elective ballot for the North Central Area executive presbyter.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second electoral ballot for the North Central Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	1,978
Needed to elect	1,319
Roy Wead received	1,493

The chairman declared Roy H. Wead reelected as executive presbyter of the North Central Area.

Election Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

The results of the first elective ballot for the Great Lakes Area were reported as follows:

Total votes cast	2,568
Needed to elect	1,712
Richard W. Dortch received	1,950

Having received more than the two-thirds vote necessary to elect, the chairman declared Richard W. Dortch reelected as the executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area on the first elective ballot.

Election Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

The chairman of the Tellers Committee announced the results of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter of the Northeast Area as follows:

Total votes cast	2,133
Needed to elect	1,422
R. D. E. Smith received	1,427

Having received more than the two-thirds vote necessary to elect, the chairman declared R. D. E. Smith reelected as the executive presbyter from the Northeast Area on the first elective ballot.

Election Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

The general secretary read the names of nominees for executive presbyter from the Northwest Area and ballots were cast for the following: E. D. Beard, Robert L. Brandt, N. D. Davidson, and Frank N. McAllister.

Roy Creamer, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the first electoral ballot for the office of executive presbyter from the Northwest Area:

Total votes cast	2,106
Needed to elect	1,404
E. D. Beard	78
Robert L. Brandt	429
N. D. Davidson	1,348
Frank N. McAllister	244
Others	7

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee read the results of the second elective ballot for the election of an executive presbyter from the Northwest Area:

Total votes cast	1,890
Needed to elect	1,260
N. D. Davidson received	1,674

The chairman declared N. D. Davidson reelected executive presbyter for the Northwest Area.

Prerogatives and Duties of the Resolutions Committee

The general secretary read a resolution which was the result of a study called for by the 1975 General Council on the prerogatives and duties of the resolutions committee.

It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted.

A motion prevailed to delete d. (3) which reads: "Be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the committee to make substantive alterations in a resolution."

A further motion prevailed that c. (3) be deleted which reads: "Those proposals which reopen reconsideration of major new programs before such programs have been given sufficient time to be tested."

It was moved and seconded to delete c (1) which reads: "Possible conflict with the corporate charter, constitution, bylaws." The motion was voted on and declared lost.

The motion to adopt the report, which includes an amendment to the bylaws by addition, was adopted as twice amended.

It was requested that the report be sent to every district as resource for any resolutions committee that they have.

The report as adopted and amended follows:

WHEREAS, "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 . . .*"; and

WHEREAS, The General Council in session in 1975 requested "that the prerogatives and duties of the Resolutions Committee be defined by the Executive Presbytery or a committee which it would appoint with a report to be made to the next General Council in resolution form"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the bylaws, Article IV, Section 4, (page 91) be amended by the addition of paragraphs c., d., and e., as follows:

c. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of a proposed resolution, including the following criteria in its decision:

- (1) Possible conflict with the corporate charter, constitution, bylaws; and
- (2) Those proposals absurd in substance.

d. The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form; and
- (2) Eliminate duplication where similar resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in a logical sequence.

e. If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise him of his right to present the proposed resolution to the house for determination as to appropriateness.

Election Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

The nominees for the Gulf Area were presented by the general secretary and ballots were cast for the following: James E. Hamill, Merle J. Harris, Cecil Janway, F. L. Langley, and N. Cleo Tapp.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the results of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Gulf Area as follows:

Total votes cast	2,232
Needed to elect	1,488
James E. Hamill received	1,652

The chairman declared James E. Hamill reelected executive presbyter from the Gulf Area on the first elective ballot.

Election Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

General Secretary Joseph R. Flower read the list of nominees from the South Central Area and ballots were cast for the following: E. R. Anderson, Robert E. Goggin, Paul Lowenberg, Kermit Reneau, Haskell H. Rogers, and Josue Sanchez.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first electoral ballot for the office of executive presbyter from the South Central Area:

Total votes cast	2,253
Needed to elect	1,502
E. R. Anderson	221
Robert E. Goggin	213
Paul Lowenberg	1,434
Kermit Reneau	256
Haskell H. Rogers	73
Josue Sanchez	54

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee read the results of the second elective ballot for the election of an executive presbyter from the South Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,634
Needed to elect	1,090
Paul Lowenberg received	1,453

The chairman declared Paul Lowenberg reelected as the executive presbyter from the South Central Area.

Family Life Ministry Report

The chairman noted that a report concerning the work of the Family Life Ministry Committee was included in his biennial report. He read that particular paragraph again as follows:

In response to another directive of the 1975 General Council, a committee has seriously considered ways to strengthen the family life of our constituency. Its recommendations received Executive Presbytery approval, and a new subcommittee of the Committee on Mission now carries this continuing assignment. Members of the committee represent those departments and publications which naturally prepare materials for family members.

A motion prevailed that this be received as having completed the assignment called for by the 1975 General Council.

Election Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

The general secretary presented the list of nominees from the Southeast Area and ballots were cast for the following: Charles H. Cookman, Robert Gatlin, J. Foy Johnson, Vaudie V. Lambert, and Aaron M. Wall.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the results of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Southeast Area as follows:

Total votes cast	2,166
Needed to elect	1,444
J. Foy Johnson received	1,468

J. Foy Johnson was declared reelected Southeast Area executive presbyter on the first elective ballot.

Resolution 2. Dissolution Provision

WHEREAS, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a religious organization organized under the provisions of the laws of the State of Missouri has not previously provided in its Constitution and Bylaws for distribution of its assets in the event of cessation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter; and

WHEREAS, The said THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD now met in its regular biennial session, said session having been duly called upon the authority of its Executive Presbytery in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, par. a. of its constitution, has by its action immediately previous to this one, duly adopted an amendment to its Articles of Agreement to become paragraph 5th thereof, said paragraph making provision for distribution of its assets in the event of

cessation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the constitution of THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD be amended and it is hereby amended by insertion of an Article to bear the title "Dissolution" and to be numbered Article XII, said Article to read as follows:

The assets of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, the same being stated fully in its Articles of Agreement and heretofore in the Articles of this constitution. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets will be distributed to a nonprofit organization, or to nonprofit organizations, which are organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section the organization or organizations shall have established tax-exempt status; and be it further

RESOLVED, That present Article XII. AMENDMENTS, shall be renumbered to become Article XIII.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 2 be adopted.

Resolution 3. Men's Department—Change of Name

WHEREAS, The Men's Department has as its primary function the task of promoting the participation of men in the ministries of the district and local church; and

WHEREAS, The Men's Department is committed to providing training aids to people in personal witnessing for Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Men's Department assists the districts and local churches in providing training for men for ministry to the boys in addition to promoting its program for boys; and

WHEREAS, The Men's Department coordinates the raising of funds for world missions as a ministry unto the Lord; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the name of the men's organization of the Assemblies of God be changed to Men's Ministries Department: and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article XIII. Division of Church

Ministries, Sec. 1, be amended to read *Men's Ministries Department* in the heading of the Section at the bottom of page 121, and further that in line 1 of b. (2) of the same Sec. 1 that *National Men's Department* be amended to read *National Men's Ministries Department*.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 3 be adopted.

Election Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

General Secretary Joseph R. Flower presented the list of nominees from the Southwest Area and ballots were cast for the following: W. Earl Cummings, Joseph Gerhart, Jose Giron, Clarence E. Lambert, Dwight H. McLaughlin, and Roy Sapp.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first electoral ballot for the office of executive presbyter from the Southwest Area:

Total votes cast	2,146
Needed to elect	1,431
W. Earl Cummings	100
Joseph Gerhart	188
Jose Giron	49
Clarence E. Lambert	345
Dwight H. McLaughlin	1,249
Roy Sapp	203

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee read the results of the second elective ballot for the election of an executive presbyter from the Southwest area:

Total votes cast	1,335
Needed to elect	890
Dwight H. McLaughlin received	1,155

The chairman declared Dwight H. McLaughlin reelected as the executive presbyter from the Southwest Area.

Resolution 4. Year of the Bible

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures are the revelation of God's will and purpose for mankind; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures provide "all things that pertain to life and godliness"; and

WHEREAS, All great movements of the Church Universal have given emphasis and priority to the Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures are the means the Holy Spirit uses to bring men to salvation and to develop a Christlike character; and

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Curriculum Commission, which provides Sunday School outlines for a number of evangelical

publishers, has designated September 1978 through August 1979 as the "Year of the Bible" and is providing outline suggestions for that year which will lead believers to a greater appreciation for the Scriptures and will prepare them more thoroughly for "rightly dividing the word of truth"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this body in session express its approval and endorsement of this worthwhile project and its purposes which are:

1. To commit ourselves afresh to the conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God;
2. To provide a strong scriptural foundation for the faith of believers as they enter the decade of the 80s;
3. To provide a rallying point to which all evangelicals may gather;
4. To prepare believers in such a way that they will be able to study the Scriptures for themselves;
5. To proclaim the relevancy of the Word of God for discovering the answers to the problems faced in today's world;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be authorized to take all steps which may be necessary to implement the program on an international scale; and be it further

RESOLVED, That churches and their subsidiary organizations be urged to take all action necessary to fulfill the objectives stated by the Evangelical Curriculum Commission.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Resolution 4 be adopted.

Resolution 5. Puerto Rico—Area Designation

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in session in Denver, Colorado, conferred district status on the Assemblies of God constituents of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws do not make provision for an area designation for Puerto Rico, Art. II, Sec. 2, par. d.; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is in closest proximity to the Southeast Area; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Art. II, Sec. 2, par. d. be amended to include Puerto Rico under the Southeast Area.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 5 be adopted.

Resolution 6. A Call to Repentance

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 6.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 6 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by placing a period instead of a comma on line 26 and by deleting: "and that an adequate program of alcohol education should be provided in schools, beginning at the elementary level."

The motion to amend by deletion was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by the addition of paragraph 8 on page 14, as follows: That we oppose abortion as a sin against God's gift of life and commend those who have opposed the provision of tax monies for abortion.

The motion to amend by addition of a proposed paragraph 8 was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 13, by deleting the words beginning on line 6, "both the medical and clinical counseling professions support the fact that it is a perversion of natural sexual drives" and continuing with the last sentence so that paragraph 2 will read: "That homosexuality is not a natural relationship. Even though some assert that it comes from innate tendencies, it is explicitly condemned in such Scriptures as Leviticus 20 and Romans 1."

A substitute motion was moved and seconded as follows: To insert the word *in* after the word "tendencies" on line 5, page 13, and to insert after the word "professions" on line 6, the words, *There is still substantial* and the word *for* on line 7 after the word "support" so that the sentence will read: "Even though some assert that it comes from innate tendencies, in both the medical and clinical counseling professions there is still substantial support for the fact that it is a perversion of natural sexual drives." The substitute motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 11, line 24, by substituting the words *The abuse of alcohol and drugs* for the word "Alcoholism" so it will read: "The abuse of alcohol and drugs has become a national shame" and to also amend page 14, line 4, by inserting the words *and drugs* after the word "alcohol" and adding on line 5 after the word "beverages" the words *and the abuse of drugs and narcotics*.

The motion to amend was carried.

The motion to adopt Resolution 6 as amended was carried unanimously.

Resolution 6 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The trend toward moral decadence is alarming; and
WHEREAS, The church must speak with a prophetic voice against the evils of this age; and

WHEREAS, We concur with the "Call To Repentance," issued

by the National Association of Evangelicals; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the General Council adopt the statement printed below and encourage its publication and implementation through every means available.

Many in America are asking, "Is God trying to say something to us?" It may be that if we would give Him our attention, we would hear His clear voice calling us away from evil and to righteousness. And perhaps the shift of weather patterns that has brought droughts to the west, dust bowl conditions to the plains, and paralyzing cold to two-thirds of the nation is part of God's effort to get our attention.

It is time to listen. American morality has declined at an appalling rate in recent years. Standards have been swept away by a flood of personal freedom without responsibility. Actions are not based on what is right but what one can get by with. Dishonesty is prevalent in business, labor, and government.

Pornography poisons the minds and perverts the actions of millions, including many of prehigh school age. Television programming presents a warped picture of American life with the portrayal of immorality, indecency, drinking, and violence. The abuse of alcohol and drugs has become a national shame. Youth often learn to drink before they are 12; many in high school are alcoholics. Alcohol is involved in over half of the deaths of young people in automobile accidents.

All too often those who are concerned about moral problems are like the blind leading the blind. They try to solve these problems by humanistic methods and they fail. It is time for America to repent and return to righteousness based upon the Word of God. Realizing this, and knowing that renewal must begin with those who know God, we:

1. Pledge ourselves to prayer for personal renewal. We will confess our sins, ask God's forgiveness, and commit ourselves completely to Him.
2. Call upon the churches of America to gather their people together for prayer for renewal, through the confession of sin and commitment to moral righteousness.
3. Ask President Carter to issue a call to prayer throughout our nation, based on God's promise "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We also realize that, as citizens, we must bear responsibility

for the moral condition of our nation. Therefore, we commit ourselves to encourage in any way possible, the reestablishment of high moral standards in all areas of life. To that end we declare:

1. That freedom of speech that is protected by the first amendment does not include the right to degrade the morals of others by the production and distribution of obscene materials.
2. That homosexuality is not a natural relationship. Even though some assert that it comes from innate tendencies, in both the medical and clinical counseling professions there is still substantial support for the fact that it is a perversion of natural sexual drives. It is explicitly condemned in such Scriptures as Leviticus 20 and Romans 1.
3. That moral law and Biblical teaching justify and require punishment for those who violate the rights of others, as a penalty for wrongdoing, a warning to the guilty, and reassurance to the innocent.
4. That the rights of those violated by criminal acts should be explicitly protected in the administration of justice and by compensation by the guilty for losses sustained.
5. That we encourage the boycott of television programs that present material that is morally degrading, including the boycott of products of sponsors. We will cooperate with the National Religious Broadcasters in the implementation of this effort.
6. That liquor advertising should be limited and subject to full disclosure of the effects of the use of alcohol, that alcoholic beverages should not be sold or given to those under 21 years of age, and that an adequate program of alcohol education should be provided in schools, beginning at the elementary level.
7. That in recognition of the perils associated with the use of alcohol and drugs and the power of personal example, Christians should abstain from any use of alcoholic beverages and the abuse of drugs and narcotics.

Privileged Motion-Bills Before Congress

A privileged motion was moved, seconded, and carried that information concerning a bill which is presently before the Congress of the U.S. which would limit or disallow the liquor industry from taking income tax deductions for monies used for advertising expenses, would be disseminated to our pastors and churches so that

letters to congressmen can be written expressing our support of such a bill.

The question was raised whether or not our churches and pastors could receive guidance on those bills before Congress which deserve our approval or disapproval. The chairman indicated that inquiries can be directed to headquarters and we will be glad to do the necessary research to give a responsible answer.

Reaffirmation of Abortion Statement

A privileged motion was moved, seconded, and carried to reaffirm our previous position on the matter of abortion. The statement adopted by the General Council in 1971 is as follows:

WHEREAS, Abortion has been catapulted into the forefront of spiritual and ethical problems confronting the church today, and the issue has been nurtured in a general climate of moral relativism, a growing sexual permissiveness, and a threatening population explosion; and

WHEREAS, The moral issue of abortion is a question of whether there are circumstances under which it may be permissible to terminate a pregnancy rather than a question of freedom of a woman to control the reproductive functions of her body; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures allude to the principles of divine blessing upon unborn infants, and divine displeasure on undue actions which result in the death of the unborn; and

WHEREAS, Christians must be involved in the decision-making process as much, if not more, than other citizens since legislatures of nearly every state consider abortion legislation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Assemblies of God affirms its conviction that abortion for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment, or economic advantage is morally wrong, and that it also expresses its firm opposition to any legislation designed to legalize abortion for those reasons; be it further

RESOLVED, That we also recognize there may be occasions which make abortion necessary for therapeutic reasons to safeguard the health or the life of the mother, as is the case with tubular pregnancies which are stated by doctors to be fatal unless terminated; be it further

RESOLVED, That in the event the individuals involved believe that pregnancies resulting from rape or incest should be terminated they should be advised to reach their decisions only after spiritual, medical, and psychological counseling has been obtained. Wherever possible the final decision should be made by

the woman. Where such determination has been reached, the individual involved should not be subjected to censure.

Resolution 7. Charismatic Movement

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 7.

The chairman announced that to call for a conference in 1978 poses a problem inasmuch as we have already announced a Church Growth Convention for 1978.

A motion prevailed to amend the resolution on page 16, line 1, by adding after "1978" the words *or as soon as feasible*.

A motion prevailed to amend page 15, line 19, by inserting the word *educators* following the word "evangelists."

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting everything beginning with line 11 and substituting the following: "Resolved, That there be a commission appointed by the Executive Presbytery to explore areas of cooperation and avenues of communication in the charismatic community and a report be made to the Executive Presbytery and appropriate actions taken."

By common consent a correction was made in the substitution so it would read "the various charismatic communities."

It was moved and seconded to amend the substitute motion to reactivate the third resolved on page 15, lines 16-23, and page 16, line 1. This motion was carried.

The chairman noted that he did not remember ever having been through all of the elections by the end of Saturday afternoon. "It seems this is a little indication of the unity of this body. We thank God for it."

The meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 20

The emphasis of the Saturday evening service was on the youth. The theme of the service was "He Is Worthy . . . I Will Love Him." James Hamill was chairman for the service and Denny Duron, football coach, Evangel College, and an Assemblies of God evangelist, was the speaker.

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 21

R. D. E. Smith was in charge of the Memorial and Communion Service which began at 9:45 a.m. in the Myriad Convention Center. Music was provided by a choir from Evangelistic Temple, Houston, Texas, under the direction of Max Eleiott. The morning speaker was Robert E. Goggin, superintendent of the Oklahoma District. The theme of the service was "He Is Worthy . . . I Will Remember."

IN MEMORIAM

The general secretary introduced the memorial service and read the poem on the front of the memorial folder. The congregation remained silent during the presentation of the names of deceased ministers by use of slides with soft background music.

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the General Secretary's Office to August 1, 1977:

DECEASED ORDAINED MINISTERS

Acree, George, Prairie Village, Kansas
Akins, Mamie F. (Mrs.), Atlanta, Georgia
Akridge, Willis A., Carlinville, Illinois
Albertson, William E., Tampa, Florida
Allen, Ira O., Macon, Georgia
Allsep, Pauline (Mrs. E. C.), Travelers Rest, South Carolina
Altstatt, Ferman B., Yuma, Arizona
Amburn, Zearl E., Lytle, Texas
Anderson, August A., Novato, California
Andrews, Demetri A., Oakland, California
Andrews, Rose J., Oakland, California
Anthony, Earnest R., Corning, Arkansas
Antillon, Pedro, Dallas, Texas
Armstrong, Ray S., Springfield, Missouri
Atwell, W. Lee, Nicoma Park, Oklahoma
Austell, James E., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Austin, Alice (Mrs.), Buxton, North Carolina
Austin, James S., Hooks, Texas
Bailey, Omer, Florence, Oregon
Baker, Luther G., Sr., Oakdale, California
Ballenger, Robert L., Vinita, Oklahoma
Barker, Arthur, Birmingham, Alabama
Barker, Clara E. (Mrs. F. G.), Santa Ana, California
Barker, Forrest G., Santa Ana, California
Barr, Hubert J., Colorado City, Texas
Bauer, Eva M. (Mrs. A. H.), Spring Valley, California
Bayless, Jackson T., Austin, Texas
Bayless, Opal B. (Mrs. R. R.), Golden Valley, Minnesota
Bazan, Demetrio, Sr., Costa Mesa, California
Bell, Elwood S., Sr., Tyrone, Pennsylvania
Benedict, Joseph, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Benjamin, Eugene W., Huntington Station, New York
Bentley, William E., Chillicothe, Missouri
Bethany, Edgar W., Decatur, Georgia
Bivans, Tena B. (Mrs.), Lewiston, Idaho
Blattner, Elsie F. (Mrs.), Springfield, Missouri

Blount, William K., Phoenix, Arizona
 Boutwell, Virgil J., Boise, Idaho
 Bowan, Alfred D., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Bowers, Irvin E., Plainfield, Wisconsin
 Bowers, Luther L., Williamsport, Maryland
 Boyce, James H., South Pasadena, California
 Braziel, Thomas A., Cleburne, Texas
 Brewer, Norman F., Holts Summit, Missouri
 Brockman, Marion F., Eufaula, Oklahoma
 Brooks, Jim Ed, Bristol, Virginia
 Brown, Joseph I., Lyons, New York
 Brown, Lloyd V., Marceline, Missouri
 Brown, Mabel C. (Miss), Virginia, Illinois
 Brown, Roland R., Crane, Texas
 Bryant, Cora B. (Mrs.), North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Burgess, Harold H., Boron, California
 Burnett, Cordas C., Springfield, Missouri
 Burnside, May A. (Mrs.), Yakima, Washington
 Busby, Raymond A., Seattle, Washington
 Cairns, J. Russell, Hays, Kansas
 Campbell, Bertye L. (Mrs. B. H.), Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Carlsen, Lester, Springfield, Oregon
 Carpenter, Hiram T., Agawam, Massachusetts
 Cavazos, Jose, Harlingen, Texas
 Chandler, Lester W., Clinton, Arkansas
 Chastagner, Paul E., Upper Volta
 Chokan, Charles, Glendora, California
 Clark, Jerry R., Santa Maria, California
 Clark, Marion F., Durant, Florida
 Collins, Marguerite (Mrs. J. W.), Gracewood, Georgia
 Conklin, Claude L., Yankton, South Dakota
 Cook, Chester C., Trenton, Texas
 Cooke, Donald N., Chattanooga, Tennessee
 Cordeiro, Fred, Ewa Beach, Hawaii
 Cox, Cary B., Whitney, Texas
 Cox, Sherman G., Lebanon, Missouri
 Coy, Roland H., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Crawford, Mrs. C. B., Colonial Heights, Virginia
 Crawford, Earl A., Macon, Georgia
 Crosby, Alma W. (Mrs.), Beaumont, Texas
 Crump, Edwin B., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Cummings, B. H., Walnut Shade, Missouri
 Cunningham, Richard B., Springfield, Missouri
 Dannheim, E. E., Brady, Texas
 Davies, Arthur E., Glassport, Pennsylvania

Davis, Earl E., Pasadena, Texas
 Davis, R. C., Harlingen, Texas
 Davis, W. Earl, Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Decker, Charles W., Meeker, Oklahoma
 Delancey, Robert H., Sr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Dollarhide, Albert R., Blaine, Washington
 Drewitz, Louis W., Detroit, Michigan
 Dudish, Julia (Miss), Detroit, Michigan
 Duncan, William F., Linton, Indiana
 Eastman, James S., Mt. Carmel, Illinois
 Egan, Cora G. (Mrs.), Warrior, Alabama
 Elder, Frances M. (Mrs.), Duncan, Oklahoma
 Ellis, Hansel L., Southport, Florida
 Erickson, Arthur W., Maywood, California
 Erwin, Kenneth, Pascagoula, Mississippi
 Eveleth, Nelson T., Albany, New York
 Farmer, Alvin J., Union, Missouri
 Felton, Herbert B., Turlock, California
 Fennell, Joseph G., Dothan, Alabama
 Fiant, Charles I., Fayetteville, Arkansas
 Fick, Ralph R., Zion, Illinois
 Filbert, Jacob A., Fort Worth, Texas
 Fisher, Albert R., Sr., Campbell, New York
 Fisher, Earl E., Holt, Michigan
 Florea, Paul, Dearborn, Michigan
 Flowers, L. G., Odessa, Texas
 Foote, Donald G., Atlanta, Michigan
 Foreman, Reuel J., Rich Hill, Missouri
 Fortier, Franklin J., Valparaiso, Indiana
 Fountain, Candis (Mrs.), Panama City, Florida
 Fox, Adolph J., Prince Frederick, Maryland
 Francis, Henry A., Gurdon, Arkansas
 Franklin, John C., Manteca, California
 Freeman, Edna C. (Mrs.), Huntington Beach, California
 Freeman, Jewell L., Seal Beach, California
 Freeman, Millard L., Ellisville, Mississippi
 Freeze, Curtis E., San Ysidro, California
 Gaddis, Hosea H., Mountain Grove, Missouri
 Gamlen, Wilfred A., Hood River, Oregon
 Garza, Loreto, Stockton, California
 Gilchrist, Wam F., Waynoka, Oklahoma
 Glidden, Gerald R., Millerton, Pennsylvania
 Godwin, Elizabeth (Mrs. G. G.), Downey, California
 Gomez, Florentino, San Jose, California
 Gorman, James E., Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Goumas, Nick, St. Petersburg, Florida
 Gowans, George, Fairfax, Virginia
 Graves, Carl F., Lansing, Michigan
 Greenwald, Henry A., Jr., Taylorville, Illinois
 Guinn, J. E., Grand Saline, Texas
 Gutel, Joseph M., Costa Mesa, California
 Halvorson, Elmer A., Costa Mesa, California
 Harris, Dave, Hammond, Louisiana
 Harrison, Roba O., Leola, Arkansas
 Hartness, Otis E., Delight, Arkansas
 Hawkins, Clyde C., Stockton, California
 Hawkins, William A., Whitney, Nebraska
 Haymaker, Charles O., Bartlesville, Oklahoma
 Helweg, Henry, Austin, Texas
 Henderson, John G., Grand Ridge, Florida
 Hill, Hermina B. (Mrs.), Cottage Grove, Oregon
 Hitchcock, Sarah A. (Miss), Hayward, California
 Hoard, Roscoe N., Patton, Missouri
 Holmes, Paul C., Channelview, Texas
 Holt, E. Loy, Harrison, Arkansas
 Holt, (Maudie) Viola (Mrs. C. E.), Big Spring, Texas
 Hook, Thomas W., Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 Hoskins, Darrell E., Stanfield, Oregon
 Huba, Ladislav W., Chicago, Illinois
 Huff, Jesse L., Denver, Colorado
 Hydanus, J. Stuart, Torrance, California
 Jacks, Edna K. (Mrs.), Trenton, Missouri
 Jackson, Willie E., Farmington, Missouri
 Johnson, William H., Athens, Tennessee
 Jones, Edsel, St. Louis, Missouri
 Jones, Ethel (Mrs.), Double Springs, Alabama
 Jones, Robert C., Sr. (Keetah), Memphis, Tennessee
 Kelly, Glenn R., Denver, Colorado
 Kimberlin, Theodore M., Belleville, Illinois
 Kimmel, Ivan G., Milan, Missouri
 Kirkpatrick, William F., Springfield, Missouri
 Knox, David N., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Knudsen, Amanda (Mrs.), Fairfield, California
 Kolenda, Paul L., Port Charlotte, Florida
 Kononen, Wilmer V., Grandview, Washington
 Kosch, Nicholas, West Islip, New York
 Krans, Orill C., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Landrus, Harold H., Alhambra, California
 Langston, Winford J., Mannford, Oklahoma
 Latham, Marie L. (Mrs.), Des Moines, Iowa

Lee, William T., Jackson, Alabama
 Lewis, Leroy, Robinson, Illinois
 Lister, Ono G. (Mrs.), Houston, Texas
 Lloyd, Burl W., Springdale, Arkansas
 Lock, L. D., Nampa, Idaho
 Logue, Alba T., Sapulpa, Oklahoma
 Love, Clarence, Van Buren, Missouri
 Lovelace, Henry P., Commerce, Texas
 Loy, Ivan R., Merritt Island, Florida
 Lucas, Vincent D., Eagle Point, Oregon
 Luker, William A., Eight Mile, Alabama
 Lyon, L. Gillam, Jefferson, Ohio
 McCullough, James F., Dallas, Texas
 McKinney, Thomas G., San Antonio, Texas
 McMinimy, Richard F., Denver, Colorado
 McNickle, Thomas W., Paramount, California
 McPeak, John R., Kimball, West Virginia
 McShane, John, Springfield, Missouri
 Manning, Byron L., Mt. Pleasant, Texas
 Manriquez, Ramon D., San Bernardino, California
 Marks, David H., Springfield, Oregon
 Marsh, Don J., Scottsdale, Arizona
 Mason, Linnie G. (Mrs.), Konawa, Oklahoma
 Matschulat, Kurt E., Oxford Junction, Iowa
 Merrill, Harwood H., Costa Mesa, California
 Militello, Joseph, Collinsville, Illinois
 Miller, James W., Rogers, Ohio
 Miller, W. T., Fort Worth, Texas
 Minshew, Russell R., Pensacola, Florida
 Misailegalu, Talaga, Seattle, Washington
 Montgomery, Etta (Mrs.), Dexter, Missouri
 Moore, J. Dan, Trenton, Missouri
 Morgan, Bettie E. (Mrs.), Texarkana, Arkansas
 Morie, Anna L. (Mrs.), Knoxville, Tennessee
 Morris, Charles F., Fenton, Missouri
 Murphy, Howard W., Los Angeles, California
 Neece, Charles O., Tampa, Florida
 Nosches, James, Lakewood, California
 Olson, Fern G. (Huffstutler), Minneapolis, Minnesota
 O'Quinn, Ollie N., McComb, Mississippi
 Park, Hilton T., Pleasant Hill, California
 Peirce, Willard C., Cupertino, California
 Perales, Pedro S, Eagle Pass, Texas
 Peterson, Alvina, (Mrs. O. E.), Belmont, California
 Peterson, Reuben N., Superior, Wisconsin

Picon, Fabriciano, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
 Pippins, Henry S., Newton, Alabama
 Popejoy, Raymond M. (Mark), Tunas, Missouri
 Powell, Leonard D., Auburndale, Florida
 Presley, H. Fletcher, Andalusia, Alabama
 Ralls, Ernest E., Central Point, Oregon
 Reed, Clarence H., Monroe, Louisiana
 Renfer, Ronald C., Central City, Iowa
 Reynolds, G. A., Hurricane, West Virginia
 Rhodes, Charles M., Oakwood, Texas
 Rhodes, R. L., Athens, Texas
 Rice, Walter C., Latah, Washington
 Richendrfer, Rufus W., Oldtown, Maryland
 Roberts, C. E., Chula Vista, California
 Rogers, Merrill H., Granada Hills, California
 Roickle, Samuel R., Hicksville, New York
 Rorie, John O., Russellville, Arkansas
 Roush, John W., Los Angeles, California
 Russell, James, Springfield, Missouri
 Sabory, Alfred, San Jose, California
 Salvaterra, Alessandro, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
 Salzman, Ralph I., San Pedro, California
 Sanchez, Santos R., Greeley, Colorado
 Satterfield, Cleo C., Jenkins, Missouri
 Sawyers, William J., Harvey, Illinois
 Schaefer, Conrad J., Hancock, Maryland
 Schaum, George M., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Secrist, Bessie (Mrs.), Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Sedgwick, Floyd, Carrollton, Missouri
 Shafer, Flora L. (Miss), Lake Stevens, Washington
 Sharpe, Ernest A., Cherry Valley, Arkansas
 Shaw, Zelma C. (Miss), Kellerton, Iowa
 Singletary, Joseph W., Panama City, Florida
 Skidmore, Beulah B. (Mrs.), Salem, Virginia
 Slaymaker, W. H., Phoenix, Arizona
 Smith, Elzie L., Rich Hill, Missouri
 Spiers, Thomas L., Crosby, Texas
 Spotts, Matilda (Mrs. C. A.), Pleasant Hill, Missouri
 Sproull, Howard A., Red Lion, Pennsylvania
 Stambaugh, Kalley, Alhambra, California
 Sterling, James P., Livingston, Texas
 Stewart, Oda (Mr.), Denton, Texas
 Stocker, Lena L. (Mrs.), Duquesne, Pennsylvania
 Stockton, Harold D., Abilene, Texas
 Strankman, Ida L. (Mrs.), Tacoma, Washington

Suter, Lionel W., Sacramento, California
 Sutton, John L., Torrance, California
 Svalya, Michael F., Warren, Michigan
 Swinnea, Dessie (Mrs.), Vidor, Texas
 Syverson, Bert G., Farmerville, Louisiana
 Szokola, Esther, Daisytown, Pennsylvania
 Tan-Ditter, Alice (Mrs.), Worcester, Massachusetts
 Taylor, Ernest B., Project City, California
 Taylor, Othniel F., Auburndale, Florida
 Temple, Clarence B., Haverhill, Massachusetts
 Terry, Theodore B., Williamsport, Pennsylvania
 Thompson, Daniel A., Kountze, Texas
 Timm, John R., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Torres, John, Jr., Austin, Texas
 Tucker, Angeline P. (Mrs.), Springfield, Missouri
 Turrony, Mary, Springfield, Missouri
 Utley, Claude J., Joplin, Missouri
 Veidmark, Arvid L., Phoenix, Arizona
 Velez, Gregorio, Bronx, New York
 Walden, S. T., Greenville, South Carolina
 Waldon, Loyce O., Alexandria, Louisiana
 Walker, Irl J., Portland, Oregon
 Ward, Tilford T., Hannibal, Missouri
 Warren, James F., Russellville, Arkansas
 Welk, Ernest A., Moses Lake, Washington
 Willborn, James E., Sr., Bethel, Alaska
 Wells, Harold E., Morris, Oklahoma
 Wells, Lonnie J., Wellington, Kansas
 Whitmarsh, Lena M., Modesto, California
 Wilder, Mary J. (Mrs.), Fort Worth, Texas
 Wilson, William H., Braggadocio, Missouri
 Winkelman, Herman G., Oakland, California
 Wright, Genoal, Malvern, Arkansas
 Young, Lucile D. (Mrs. R. M.), Ottawa, Illinois
 Zablo, Anna (Mrs.), Canton, Ohio
 Zink, Dale C., Jacksonville, Florida

General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman presided over the Communion Service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 21

The Sunday afternoon missionary service emphasized the theme "He Is Worthy . . . I Will Go." The speaker was Albert Cakau, superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Fiji. The service con-

cluded with a missionary parade narrated by David Womack and music by the Memphis TV Choir.

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 21

The theme "He Is Worthy . . . I Will Praise Him" was emphasized in an hour-long Celebration of Praise. The guest musicians were Dino and Debbie Kartsonakis, the Couriers, and Evie Tornquist. Also participating in the Celebration of Praise was a mass choir and orchestra comprised of volunteers from the Oklahoma City area along with musicians from all parts of the nation. This choir and orchestra was directed by John Shows, minister of music at Central Assembly in Springfield, Missouri, and assistant professor of music at Evangel College. The speaker for the evening service was Glen Cole, pastor of Evergreen Christian Center, Olympia, Washington.

MONDAY MORNING—AUGUST 22

The Monday morning devotional service opened with the singing of several choruses, led by Jim Campbell. Organist was Mrs. Esther Palmer of Montgomery, Alabama, and Mrs. Steve Potter, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, was pianist. Joseph R. Flower led in the reading of Scripture and prayer. Steve Potter, minister of music at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, ministered in song. The speaker for the morning was J. Foy Johnson, executive presbyter and superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District, who used as his text Deuteronomy 32:9, 10.

Brother Zimmerman presented O. L. Harrup, Sr., president of Valley Forge Christian College, who gave a brief review of the property recently acquired from the Federal government and of the subsequent move of the college. He also reviewed details of a lawsuit which has been brought against the government, and against Valley Forge Christian College, by the Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Announcement was made of a gift which the General Council had made to the college by action of the Executive Presbytery. A facsimile of the check was presented to Brother Harrup. An appeal was made for gifts to the college to help with tremendous financial pressure at this time. Envelopes were distributed for this purpose.

James E. Ross, convention sales manager from Baltimore, Maryland, was introduced, and he presented an invitation to the delegates to come to Baltimore for the 1979 General Council.

The business session was called to order at 10 a.m. Arthur Parsons, superintendent of the Ohio District, led in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

Arthur Berg presented the Roster Committee report as of 9 a.m. as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,851
Delegates	<u>1,401</u>
Voting constituency	5,252
Licensed ministers	412
Visitors	<u>4,171</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>4,583</u>
Total	9,835

A motion prevailed that the report of the Roster Committee be accepted.

Resolution 7. Charismatic Movement (continued)

The chairman stated that a motion to amend Resolution 7 was before the house which would delete all three Resolves and replace them with a new paragraph as follows: "Resolved that there be a commission appointed by the Executive Presbytery to explore areas of cooperation and avenues of communication in the various charismatic communities and a report be made to the Executive Presbytery and appropriate actions taken."

He further stated that a motion had been adopted to amend the amendment to reactivate the third Resolve.

The motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that line 20 be amended by deleting the words "involved in this movement," and that lines 22 and 23 be amended as follows: place a period following "charismatic movement" and delete the remainder of the sentence. The motion was voted upon and declared lost.

By common consent it was agreed that line 17, page 15, would be corrected to read *various charismatic movements*.

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

The suggestion was made that the executive brethren give consideration to adding a Friday, Saturday, and possibly Sunday to the scheduled 1978 convention for emphasis on this charismatic conference type meeting.

Resolution 7 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been manifested by members of the historic Christian churches and such members have been tolerated and sometimes encouraged to practice their beliefs within their respective denominations; and

WHEREAS, Many charismatic groups have expressed an interest in fellowship and dialogue with the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has been raised up to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in the 20th Century and is in

position to provide sound Biblical teaching to the numerous converts in the current revival wherever possible; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That an executive officer of the General Council be requested to serve in liaison with charismatic groups and report quarterly to the Executive Presbytery on problems and opportunities which exist; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assemblies of God accept invitations to participate in various interdenominational charismatic conferences; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery convene a conference on the Holy Spirit, inviting leaders of the various charismatic movements from the respective denominations to participate and be available to answer questions regarding this charismatic movement and that some of our own pastors, evangelists, educators, and missionaries involved in this movement also be invited to participate and conduct workshops on the problems and opportunities involved in effort to broaden the relationship of the Assemblies of God with the charismatic movement and to assist local pastors and other ministers, helping them as they seek to be involved. Such a conference should take place in 1978, or as soon as feasible.

The chairman requested that he be granted permission to make comments relative to the resolution on the charismatic movement which had been adopted. It was later requested that this statement be circulated to the constituency for the benefit of those who were not present to hear it. The statement is as follows:

I am very happy with the resolution which has been adopted. We have wanted a sense of direction from our constituency concerning a number of these areas of vital relationships.

Throughout the time since we had our statement on the charismatic movement in Minneapolis, which was approved and adopted by the following General Council in Miami in 1973 as part of the Spiritual Life Committee Report, we have maintained a posture of appreciation and openness to what God is doing in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I find my own heart thrilled as I see many evidences of a genuine revival in this current outpouring. Praise God it is not confined to the narrow banks of any one group.

There are inherent deviations from scriptural teaching that we acknowledged in our first statement. Some of these have become increasingly grotesque. I do feel that we as a Fellowship need to recognize the centrality of the importance of right doctrine. The first century church continued steadfastly—before fellowship or

anything else—in the apostles' doctrine.

We need to be a little careful that we do not inadvertently drift into a quasi experience-oriented position. I find it a little bit difficult to feel that experience is the test of validity. Man, being the emotional person that he is, needs a stronger guideline than the mere expression of his own experience.

There are two strong tides that flow throughout the New Testament. God has given us His Word and His Spirit, and there is absolutely no dichotomy between the two. They run complementarily all the way through. When we are called upon to bear the responsibility of judging, particularly when there are expressions of the word-gifts, we must have the plumbline of the Word of God to assure us that we are building straight and strong.

There is much that we have to offer as a Fellowship. However, you who have heard me speak know that I have warned the Assemblies of God, and I would renew that warning here, that we not assume an "elder brother" complex. We ought to rejoice in everything that is happening that is of God, and be ready to lend a steadying hand of scriptural insight to give a sense of direction to what is occurring.

I believe we are now seeing only the beginning of what is going to continue with an ever-increasing outpouring of God's Spirit in fulfillment of Joel, Chapter 2.

Resolution 8. The Ecumenical Movement

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 8, which was presented without recommendation. Since there was no motion to adopt, the resolution was declared not before the body.

Resolution 9. Ministerial Preaching Requirements

A delay was requested in considering Resolution 9 until a committee report has been heard which will contain recommendations concerning this subject and necessitates the revision of Resolution 9.

Resolution 10. Ministry in Non-Assemblies Church

Resolution 10 was read as follows:

WHEREAS, The scope of ministry of evangelists ministering to non-Council Assemblies is currently restricted by the provision of Article VIII, Section 9, of the bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article VIII, Section 9, of the bylaws be amended by substitution in line 10 to read: "We recommend therefore, that our ministers confer with the local pastor(s) before engaging in ministry in any church. . . ."

This is a change, deleting the words "District Council officials" and inserting the words *local pastor(s)*.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted. Following discussion, Resolution 10 was voted upon and declared lost.

Resolution 11. Information on Official Proceedings

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council consists of brothers and sisters in the Lord who labor together; and

WHEREAS, The Scripture openly records for all believers the affairs of the Early Church including its attainments and failures, agreements and arguments; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for an organization such as the Assemblies of God to make accessible to its members such information on official proceedings as may be requisite to their intelligent awareness and consideration of its affairs and actions; and

WHEREAS, The rights of privacy and the need for confidentiality, as well as the large quantity of official records and proceedings, renders impossible the availability for scrutiny by members of all official records and files or the publishing and circulation of all records of proceedings in large quantities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to study the manner and extent in which information regarding official proceedings should be made available to the members of the General Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this committee report to the General Council in its next session offering recommendations including any enabling resolutions which may be necessary for implementation of their recommendations.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11 be adopted. After discussion the motion was voted upon and declared lost.

Resolution 12. Assemblies of God Graduate School

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, By authorization of the 26th General Council, a paragraph was adopted and ordered included in Article XII, Section 4, of the bylaws, for the purpose of working toward establishing a graduate school of theology, subject to further action by the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Graduate School has been successfully established; and since regulatory provisions for its operation have been included by previous amendment to the

bylaws and now appear as Section 4 of Article XX. Institutions; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the last paragraph under Article XII, Section 4, be deleted, said paragraph stating as follows:

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.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 12 be adopted.

Resolution 13. Manner of Returning Credentials

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 13 as follows:

WHEREAS, It appears that the instructions given in the bylaws for return of credentials by a minister whose credentials have been terminated, should be more fully stated to make Article IX, Section 7, 1st paragraph, conform to paragraph c of the same section; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the first sentence of the first paragraph under Section 7 of Article IX be amended to read:

In all cases the minister shall be requested 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.

(The remainder of the paragraph shall be retained as presently stated.)

A motion prevailed that Resolution 13 be adopted.

Resolution 14. Approval of General Presbytery Minutes

Resolution 14 was read as follows:

WHEREAS, The bylaws in its Article III, Section 3, include provision for approval and publication of the minutes of the General Council but make no provision for approval of the minutes of the General Presbytery, thus making it necessary to authorize the manner of such approval at the close of each meeting thereof; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery meets annually and there is need for approval and distribution of the minutes thereof as early thereafter as possible; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That paragraph c. be rewritten to read as follows:

He shall serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, the Executive Presbytery, the Credentials Committee, and the

Board of Administration, and shall keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That a paragraph shall be added which shall read:

He shall be authorized to edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meetings of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the paragraphs be rearranged in the interest of better order so that the Section will appear as follows:

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 the 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 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.

d. He shall serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the Credentials Committee, and the Board of Administration, and shall keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.

e. He shall be authorized to edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 14 be adopted.

Resolution 15. Indian Missions Representative

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 15 as follows:

WHEREAS, The American Indian field has the largest number of ministers of the Special Ministries Department of the Division of Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, The American Indian field has 199 Indian Assemblies and is larger than some of our districts and there are over one million Indians in the continental United States, and the Assemblies of God is reaching about one percent of them; and

WHEREAS, There are a number of Indian Assemblies without pastors and there is a great need to develop indigenous churches in Indian areas; and

WHEREAS, All of the special ministries in the Division of Home Missions except Teen Challenge share one representative on the national level; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a person with Indian ministries experience, and preferably one who is an American Indian according to Federal definition, be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve as field representative to the American Indian field by January, 1978.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15 be adopted.

A motion to refer was offered as follows: "... our bylaws have already made provision for the appointment of representatives in the field of Special Ministry. Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph g. page 139, reads: 'National representatives to serve in specific areas of Home Missions work may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery as it becomes advisable and practical.'

"In view of the fact that provisions are already made for such appointments, I move that Resolution 15 be referred to the national Home Missions Board with the understanding that an in-depth study be made of this need and how it can best be met. Furthermore, such study be evaluated in the light of the overall program of Special Ministries. The Home Missions Board shall report to the Executive Presbytery, who, according to Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph g. page 139, are empowered to take appropriate action."

The motion to refer was voted upon and declared lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 15 was voted upon and declared carried.

The morning business session recessed at 12 noon, with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by D. H. McLaughlin.

MONDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 22

The Monday afternoon business session opened with David Richards leading in singing "It Is Glory Just to Walk With Him" and "The Family of God." Bill Hedrick and Linda Ingram of Oklahoma City were at the piano and organ respectively.

Howard Spruill, assistant district superintendent of the Potomac District, led in prayer for the business session.

The session was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

Ordained ministers	3,864	
Delegates	1,403	
Voting constituency		5,267
Licensed ministers	415	
Visitors	<u>4,222</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>4,637</u>
Total		9,904

A motion prevailed that the Roster Committee report be accepted.

A motion prevailed that the roster for the 37th General Council be officially closed following the opportunity of final registration during the evening service.

Appreciation to Arthur Berg

The chairman presented a lovely plaque to Arthur Berg for the excellent services he has rendered for the past 22 years as chairman of the Roster Committee, assisted by his wife. Brother Berg responded by expressing appreciation for the cooperation of the other members of the Roster Committee and the convention bureaus in every city who have assisted with their personnel.

Resolution 16. Russian Emigration

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Human Rights Accord was honored by the USSR in conjunction with other countries of the world; and

WHEREAS, Religious freedom in Russia is limited and restrictive to our fellow Christian believers; and

WHEREAS, These brethren in Russia have appealed to the President of the United States for assistance in obtaining freedom to emigrate; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council make an appeal to President Carter to exercise the power of his office in securing their freedom to emigrate to any country of their choice.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by substituting on page 27, line 9, the word *the* for "their" and by adding after the word "freedom" the words *of oppressed religious groups*.

A motion prevailed to refer this matter to the Executive Presbytery for appropriate evaluation on its part.

Resolution 17. Headquarters Nomenclature

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, There is inconsistency in the nomenclature of headquarters departments which often results in using incorrect nomenclature; and

WHEREAS, Personnel engaged in editorial work consume considerable time in consulting the *Assemblies of God Style Manual* for correct nomenclature; and

WHEREAS, It is advantageous to conserve space in printing, particularly in directory listings; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God be edited to bring about uniformity of nomenclature so that in the case of a division, it shall be Division of _____ (e.g., Division of Home Missions) and in the case of departments, it shall be shown as _____ Department (e.g., Stewardship Department.)

A motion prevailed that Resolution 17 be adopted.

Valley Forge Christian College

The following resolution was presented as a privileged motion:

WHEREAS, It seems evident that Valley Forge Hospital has fallen into our hands by divine providence; and

WHEREAS, The present considerations relating to this property have such broad implications; and

WHEREAS, Our entire Movement, along with other religious organizations, stands to lose so much in the event of the success of the present opposition; and

WHEREAS, when the matter was presented early in this morning's session, attendance was extremely small; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That this body in session request the appeal for assistance to be briefly presented again in this evening's service. It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the resolution.

Resolution 18. Headings in Constitution and Bylaws

The Resolutions Committee chairman read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, There is a desire to make The General Council Constitution and Bylaws a more convenient working instrument; and

WHEREAS, It is felt that this could be facilitated by additional headings; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the general secretary be authorized to insert appropriate sideheads as are deemed advisable in his judgment, with the understanding that such headings would in nowise

jeopardize or change the meaning and intent of the body of the constitution and bylaws.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Resolution 18 be adopted.

Resolution 19. Foreign Language District Voting

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 19 be adopted.

A motion prevailed to amend by deleting on page 30, line 23, the words "nominee resides" and inserting the words *district office is located*, and on page 31, line 8, deleting the words "they reside" and inserting the words, *the district office is located*.

The motion to adopt the resolution as amended was carried.

The resolution as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Clear guidance is needed for members of foreign language districts when voting in the election of General Council executive presbyters and in the selection of members for the Board of Education and Foreign Missions; and

WHEREAS, The problem is complicated by the fact that foreign language districts may encompass more than one geographical area; and

WHEREAS, The bylaws do not provide a clear statement of guidance in Article II, Section 2, paragraph d; and

WHEREAS, The instructions presently provided appear under a paragraph which relates only to the election of executive presbyters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the statement be deleted which is contained in lines 22, 23, 24, and 25 of the aforesaid paragraph d, said statement appearing as lines 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the top of page 86, and reading as follows:

Foreign Language Districts: Members of the foreign language districts shall vote in the area wherein they reside.

Missionaries: Missionaries on furlough shall vote with their home districts.

Be it further RESOLVED, That a new statement shall be inserted in its place which is to read:

Nominees from foreign language districts shall be included on the ballot of, and be voted upon along with, the nominees from the same area in which the district office is located.

And be it further RESOLVED, That a new paragraph "e" be inserted which shall read:

e. For the purpose of selection by the General Presbytery of the members of the Board of Education in compliance with Bylaw Article XII, Section 3, paragraph b. (3), and of the

Board of Foreign Missions as provided for in Article XV, Section 2, members of foreign language districts shall vote with the area in which the district office is located. Foreign missionaries on furlough shall vote with their home districts.

And be it further RESOLVED, That paragraphs now designated as "e" and "f" be designated as "f" and "g."

Article XIX. Division of the Treasury

It was moved, seconded, and carried that inasmuch as this document has been mailed for study and much of the material is clearly indicated, we dispense with reading of this report and consider it section by section.

Introduction and

Section 1. Finance Department

It was moved and seconded to insert another paragraph between the proposed Section 1. B. (1) and Section 1. B. (2) to be known as (2), and the other paragraphs to be renumbered, to read as follows: "There shall be a finance director who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery." The motion to amend was lost.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XIX up to and including Section 1.

Section 2. Stewardship Department

It was moved and seconded to adopt Section 2, page 7, line 18, through page 10, line 11.

In response to a question, it was explained that officers called for in this section are already in place; we have had a Stewardship Department but it has not been covered by bylaws provision. The chairman pointed out that at present the same personnel are operating under the caption of the Stewardship Department and the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department. It is set up so that as the departments grow, they could be staffed separately.

The motion to adopt Section 2 was carried.

Section 3. Deferred Giving and Trusts Department

It was moved and seconded to adopt Section 3.

By common consent it was agreed to permit the general secretary to edit Section 3. b. (9).

The motion to adopt Section 3 was carried.

Section 4. Church Loan Department

A motion prevailed to adopt Section 4.

Section 5. Audit Department

A motion prevailed that Section 5 be adopted.

Section 6. Benevolences Department

A motion prevailed that Section 6 be adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the entire Article XIX.

Article XIX as adopted follows:

ARTICLE XIX. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY

a. *Sphere of authority*

There shall be a Division of the Treasury which shall have general oversight of the Finance Department, the Stewardship Department, the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department, the Church Loan Department, the Audit Department, and the Benevolences Department.

b. *Purpose*

The purpose of the division shall be to have the oversight and responsibility of safeguarding, supervising, and investing the finances of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and to oversee its benevolences ministries.

c. *Executive director*

The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the division.

d. *Amenability*

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. Finance Department

a. *Authorization and purpose*

(1) *Functions.* There shall be a Finance Department which shall have the functions usual and ordinary to a Finance Department, and shall include the processing of mail.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. *Government and organization*

(1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

(2) *Executive Finance Committee.* The Board of Administration shall constitute the Executive Finance Committee.

(3) *Committee on Finance.* There shall be a Committee on Finance, consisting of seven men from the constituency on the field, 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.

The terms shall be for 3 years and so arranged that two shall be elected in each of successive years and three in the third successive year.

(4) *Investment Committee.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a qualified Investment Committee of no less than four members to approve and make all decisions in regard to the investing, safeguarding, and buying and selling of all investments. This committee shall meet regularly and prepare written, detailed minutes. Each and every decision to buy or sell any assets for which the department is responsible shall be signed by no less than three members on a numbered form prepared to record the authorization. These forms shall be kept in a numerical sequence file for review by all controlling and reviewing bodies and auditors. The Investment Committee is hereby charged with the prudent man rule in making its decisions.

c. *Support of headquarters*

(1) *From ministers.* 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) per month from their tithes, or as an offering, or through their influence. Licensed ministers should contribute two dollars (\$2) 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 semi-annual report of ministers' contributions for the support of headquarters. Each dis-

trict shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the following methods: (a) collectively, through district publications; (b) individually, through personal letters; or (c) 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.

- (2) *From assemblies.* 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 2. Stewardship Department

a. Authorization and purpose

- (1) *Responsibility.* There shall be a Stewardship Department which shall be responsible for promoting Bible-based stewardship among our churches and membership.
- (2) *Functions.* The functions of this department shall be:
 - (a) To prepare and provide, as needed, materials that stress Biblical concepts of the stewardship of life, time, testimony, talent, and treasure;
 - (b) To encourage faithful support of World Ministries Giving and to provide periodic reports to districts and churches on World Ministries Giving;
 - (c) To encourage scriptural methods of financial support for local assemblies, district councils, and the administrative offices of the General Council.
- (3) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

- (1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.
- (2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.
- (3) *Stewardship Committee.* There shall be a Stewardship Committee which shall give counsel for the operation of the department. The committee shall be composed of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assem-

blies of God, who shall serve as its chairman; the secretary of the Stewardship Department; and three others from the field at large, appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term. The committee shall meet annually.

c. World Ministries Giving

- (1) *Participation.* 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.
- (2) *Combined report.* 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.
- (3) *Credit.* World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Divisions of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education (including educational institutions), and Church Ministries (including Men's, Women's Ministries, Sunday School, and Youth Departments), Radio and TV, the executive and Spiritual Life—Evangelism offices, Benevolences Department, and other General Council, regional, and district sponsored or approved projects. It is understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Section 3. Deferred Giving and Trusts Department

a. Authorization and purpose

- (1) *Responsibility and scope.* There shall be a Deferred Giving and Trusts Department which shall have the responsibility of developing, promoting, and administering all areas of deferred giving, including but not limited to all types of trust funds, wills, estates, annuities, unitrusts, annuity trusts, life income contracts, pooled income funds, remainder trusts, life ownership of property, remainderman agreements, life insurance agreements, and any other legal, ethical, and proven programs.
- (2) *Amenability.* The Deferred Giving and Trusts Department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and

under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

- (3) *Title and signatories.* The title and authority of any legal instrument shall be in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Those officers who are designated and authorized to sign all documents for that body shall be authorized to act in the same capacity for the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.
- (4) *Control.* These bylaws shall govern the entire authority, control, and operation of the department.
- (5) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. *Government and organization*

(1) *Board of trustees*

- (a) The Deferred Giving and Trusts Department shall be under the supervision of a board of trustees consisting of not less than five members.
 - (b) The board of trustees shall be appointed by and responsible to the Executive Presbytery.
 - (c) The trustees shall be qualified, reputable, and knowledgeable persons and shall serve for 3-year terms beginning on a staggered basis of 1, 2, and 3 years. A majority of trustees shall not be members of the headquarters staff.
 - (d) The board shall meet not less than once each 3 months and shall review all actions of the deferred giving and trusts administration for the prior period. It shall review and give guidance in regard to investments, instruments, documents, financial reports, and internal controls, and keep detailed minutes of each meeting.
- (2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be the business administrator and shall be in charge of all activities, including the office, files, safeguarding of assets, and the administration of all documents and assets in accordance with each document.
- (3) *Administrative Committee*
- (a) The board of trustees shall appoint three qualified personnel to function as the administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department in charge of the day-to-day operations. The administra-

tive committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department shall always act under the prudent man rule in its conduct. The members of the administrative committee shall be the department secretary and two other members from headquarters personnel.

- (b) The administrative committee shall be responsible to the General Council Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and to its own board of trustees.
- (4) *Director of field services.* There shall be a director of field services who shall be in charge of field representation, public relations, and shall assist in estate planning such as wills, trust instruments, annuity agreements, and any other authorized programs of deferred giving.
- (5) *Accountant.* A qualified accountant shall be in charge of all record keeping, general and detailed books of account to reflect all activities of each document, as well as all activities by classes of trusts, gifts, annuities, unitrusts, and all other categories for proper accounting records. Each trust or each instrument should identify in each file where the funds are invested and their earnings, and the disposition when closed. The accountant shall develop a system of internal controls with checks and balances that will conform to sound and generally accepted auditing standards.
- (6) *Investment Committee.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a qualified, experienced, and trained Investment Committee of no less than four members to approve and make all decisions in regard to the investing, safeguarding, and buying and selling of all investments. This committee will meet regularly and prepare written, detailed minutes. Each and every decision to buy or sell any assets of the department shall be signed by no less than three members on a numbered form prepared to record the authorization. These forms shall be kept in a numerical sequence file for review by all controlling and reviewing bodies and auditors. The Investment Committee is hereby charged with the prudent man rule in making its decisions.
- (7) *Annual review.* The General Council Committee on Finance shall review the operations of this department each year.
- (8) *Undesignated assets.* Upon the receipt of any assets not specifically designated by the donor, the General Council

Board of Administration shall give written authorization for the sale of or other disposition by the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.

- (9) *Authorization for distribution.* When assets are freed from all contingencies they shall be approved for distribution to the particular ministry, fund, division, charity or other parties as specified by the instrument providing the assets. The Executive Presbytery shall give final approval for the distribution of all funds designated to the General Council or any of its affiliates, and shall have the authority to designate and distribute undesignated funds.

Section 4. Church Loan Department

a. *Authorization and purpose*

- (1) *Function.* There shall be a Church Loan Department which shall provide loans and assist in obtaining financing for churches that need such assistance.
- (2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. *Government and organization*

- (1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.
- (2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall serve as the church loan officer.
- (3) *Church Loan Committee.* There shall be a Church Loan Committee which shall act upon all loan applications. The committee shall consist of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, who shall serve as its chairman; the secretary of the department; and two other persons appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term.

Section 5. Audit Department

a. *Authorization and purpose*

- (1) *Function.* There shall be an Audit Department which shall conduct independent protective and constructive audits and review effectiveness of controls, financial records, and operations.
- (2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. *Government and organization*

- (1) *Internal auditor.* There shall be an internal auditor who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be under the supervision of the general treasurer and shall be directly accountable to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery.
- (2) *Responsibility.* The internal auditor basically serves management by measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of controls. His work is complementary to the independent auditor, using a similar approach but a different application of auditing techniques, independence, reporting, and interests served.

c. *Annual audit*

There shall be an annual audit of the financial records of The General Council of the Assemblies of God by an independent auditor, prepared in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards.

Section 6. Benevolences Department

a. *Authorization and purpose*

There shall be a Benevolences Department 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.

b. *Government and organization*

- (1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.
- (2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.
- (3) *Administrative Committee.* There shall be a Benevolences Committee to administer the department. It shall consist of the general treasurer, who shall serve as chairman; the secretary of the department; and three other persons appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term.
- (4) *Amenability.* The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. *Benevolence funds*

The department shall be authorized to solicit regular contri-

butions 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 Benevolences Department in its monthly budget.

d. *Aged Ministers Assistance*

Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers (the term includes ordained 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 bases:

- (1) The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.
- (2) The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a widow of a minister.
- (3) Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officary.

e. *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 appointed 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.

f. *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 Benevolences Department. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by the department.

Article VII. Ministry

The general secretary explained that a committee had been appointed by the General Presbytery to study the uniformity of granting

credentials by district councils. The proposals offered come as recommendations from that committee.

Section 1. Ministry described

A motion prevailed that Section 1 be adopted.

Section 2. Basic qualifications

It was moved and seconded to adopt Section 2.

It was moved and seconded to amend by addition on page 21, line 15, after the word "Spirit" the following words: *with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues*, so that the sentence will read: "Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4." The motion was carried.

The question was raised if there are any other areas of ineligibility which relate to life-styles prior to conversion, specifically that of a homosexual. It was explained that the General Presbytery some years ago had adopted the policy that such individuals would be banned from ever receiving credentials, but it is not written into our bylaws.

It was moved and seconded to delete paragraph h. Educational requirements on page 22.

A question arose as to whether this proposed constitutional change had been presented to the Executive Presbytery 6 months prior to this session as the constitution stipulates. It was determined that although it had been mailed to the constituency within the 60-day period as required, it had not been presented to the Executive Presbytery early enough.

A substitute motion was moved and seconded to strike out the words under the PRESENT column, referring to deleting the statement from the Constitution Article X.: "Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials," etc. This action would retain the statement in the constitution and also pick it up here in the bylaws. This substitute motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 21, line 20, by deleting the words after "conviction" and inserting the words *and active ministry to others in the context of a local church, confirmed by the testimony of the pastor of that church*. The motion to amend was lost.

By common consent it was agreed that the general secretary should include proper Scripture references in paragraph k on page 23.

The motion to adopt Section 2 as twice amended, and with the provision of inserting Scripture references, was carried.

Section 3. Graded qualifications

It was moved and seconded that Section 3 of Bylaw Article VII. Ministry be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 25, line 27, by inserting the word *or* after "pastor" and striking out the words "or some other

recognized full-time ministry." The chairman observed that this would mean someone involved in a teaching ministry could not be ordained. After considerable discussion the motion was voted upon and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 26, line 5, by inserting after the words "residents of" the words *or hold credentials in* so this sentence would read: "They must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee." This motion to amend was carried.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 25, line 1, by inserting after the word "year" the words *or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry* so that the sentence would read: "They shall preach at least 12 times a year or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry except in case of ill health or infirmity." This motion to amend was carried.

An urgent prayer request was given for a 14-year-old boy who had broken his neck. Richard Dortch, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area, led in the prayer of dismissal and presented this urgent prayer request to the Lord. The session adjourned at 5:08 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology.

MONDAY EVENING—AUGUST 22

The evening service was under the direction of Roy H. Wead, president of Trinity Bible Institute and executive presbyter of the North Central Area. The theme for the service was "He Is Worthy . . . I Will Walk With Him." Special recognition was given to those ministers who had 50 or more years of ministry. Mrs. Dollie Simms, who was ordained in 1914 at the first General Council, was recognized and presented with a plaque which was her original ordination certificate issued in 1914. Willie Millsaps, who was present at the first General Council, was also introduced. The following with 50 or more years of ministry indicated their presence:

Ella (Higgins) Benjamin
Rev. and Mrs. Arthur F. Berg
Handy A. Christopher
Veny L. Clark
Jewell Cunningham
Wesley W. Fleming
G. W. Hardcastle, Sr.
Elmer E. Hembree
Ruth J. Henley
Margaret Jones
Rev. and Mrs. Gayle F. Lewis
Rev. and Mrs. Stanley P. MacPherson
S. A. Merrill

Willie T. Millsaps
Nolon B. Rayburn
Rev. and Mrs. Charles W. H. Scott
Dollie A. Simms
Rev. and Mrs. Marvin L. Smith
Montie Lee Turner
Stephen Vandermerwe
Rev. and Mrs. Bert Webb
J. E. Winstead
J. Haskell Wooldridge

The speaker for the evening service was David Crabtree, pastor, First Assembly of God, Des Moines, Iowa.

TUESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 23

The Tuesday morning session opened at 8:45 a.m. with the singing of "Oh, How I Love Jesus," "I Will Serve Thee," and "He Is Lord," led by David Richards. Organist was L. B. Larsen. Thomas F. Zimmerman read the Scripture from Revelation 5 followed by prayer led by Zeferino Cabello, superintendent of the Central Latin American District. A telegram of greeting was read from Justus du Plessis, general secretary of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa. A motion prevailed that the general secretary respond in an appropriate manner.

Owen Carr led in prayer for God's guidance in the business session. The final business session of the 37th General Council was called to order at 9 a.m.

Roster Committee Report

Ordained ministers	3,867	
Delegates	<u>1,406</u>	
Voting constituency		5,273
Licensed ministers	418	
Visitors	<u>5,578</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>5,996</u>
Total		11,269

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

Article VII. Ministry (continued)

Section 3. Graded qualifications

The chairman reviewed the action on Section 3 at the time of recess on Monday afternoon. The motion to adopt the section as amended was carried.

Section 4. Action of credentials committee

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Section 4 be adopted.

Section 5. *Certificates*

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Section 5 be adopted.

Section 6. *Renewal of fellowship certificates*

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Section 6 be adopted.

Section 7. *Official list*

In connection with Section 7, the general secretary suggested that Resolution 31 be presented, which would have bearing on it.

Resolution 31. Ministerial Preaching Requirements

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 31 (formerly #9 in the Resolutions Booklet). It was moved and seconded that it be considered as an amendment to Section 7.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 31 be amended by adding the words *such as headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian Education*; following the words "full-time ministry" on line 1, page 2, of the resolution. The motion carried.

The motion to adopt Resolution 31 as amended was voted upon and declared carried.

Resolution 31 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has responded to desires expressed by members of the constituency by appointing a committee to study Ministerial Preaching Requirements as set forth in Article VII, Section 8, paragraph b, of the bylaws, and WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has received the report of said committee and has taken action to refer the same to this session of the General Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII. Ministry, Section 8. Official List, paragraph b, be amended by substituting the following in its place:

b. *Inactive Ministers.* All ordained ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary. He shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise.

(1) *Definition.* All ordained ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times within a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

(2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.*

When a minister is definitely inactive for 2 consecutive years, his name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise by letter.

(3) *Exceptions.* 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 such as headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God, regardless of age.

c. *Restoration to active status.* Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the district officary.

Section 7 as amended by Resolution 31 was adopted.

Section 8. *Superannuated ministers*

The chairman noted that inasmuch as a report has already been adopted on the subject of superannuation, that action automatically replaces this section of the report.

Section 9. *Ministerial relations*

It was moved and seconded that Section 9 be adopted. It was noted that Resolution 22 would affect paragraph d of this section.

Resolution 22. Ministerial Relations—Financial Support

Resolution 22 was read by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 22 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that line 17 of Resolution 22 be amended to read "Military and institutional chaplains. . . ." Discussion followed as to whether or not institutional chaplains would have grade status. The motion to amend was voted upon and declared lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 22 was voted upon and declared carried.

Resolution 22 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, A committee appointed by the Executive Presbytery to study support of home districts by missionaries, home missionaries and military chaplains has recommended an amendment to the committee reports, processed for presentation to the 37th General Council convening in Oklahoma City; and WHEREAS, Said proposed amendment has been approved by

the General Presbytery in session; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 9, paragraph (d), (line 15)
be amended to read

d. *Cooperation with other districts.* Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers ordained and licensed conform to the financial policy of the district with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:

(1) Foreign missionaries will be obligated to pay \$25 per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and \$10 per month when resident on their fields.

(2) Military chaplains would be obligated to their home district in the amount of \$5 per month per officer grade and encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their temporary duty assignments.

The motion to adopt Section 9 as amended by Resolution 22 was carried.

Section 10. Transfer of Credentials

It was noted that Resolution 21 would affect this action. Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was asked to present Resolution 21. A motion prevailed that Resolution 21 be adopted.

Resolution 21 as adopted follows:

Resolution 21. Uniformity in Granting Credentials

WHEREAS, The committee to study the uniformity in granting credentials has reported its findings to the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has adopted this report for referral to the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The report recommends the following changes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the proposed bylaw, Article VII, Section 10, Paragraph b, Item 4 (lines 7 and 8) be amended to read "those who are serving on the faculties of schools affiliated with the General Council and district council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the district council in which the school is located,"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That proposed bylaw Article VII, Section 10, Paragraph b, Item 6 (line 11) be amended by deletion and Item 7 be renumbered Item 6.

A motion prevailed to adopt Section 10 as amended by Resolution 21.

Section 11. Privileged communications

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Section 11 be adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the entire Article VII as amended.

Article VII. Ministry as amended and adopted follows:

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.

Section 2. Basic qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- a. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- b. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable him to fulfill the three-fold mission of the Church (Article V, par. 10, of the Constitution).
- c. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- d. A blameless Christian life, and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- e. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- f. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council Constitutions and Bylaws.
- g. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.
- h. *Educational requirements.* Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they complete the prescribed study courses of the Berean School of the Bible or equivalent training in an approved school, and pass

examinations, together with other training, as may be prescribed by respective district councils in conformity with such provisions as are made for applicants by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

- i. *Marriage status.* We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or district councils granting credentials to such if either marriage partner has a former companion living, except as hereinafter provided.
- j. *Annulments and marriage dissolutions.* 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.
- k. *Eligibility of women.* The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women 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, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church when such acts are necessary.
- l. *Ministers from other organizations.* If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, a recommendation from that body should accompany his application. However, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his own merits in the light of Assemblies of God criteria. It is expected that ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their affiliation with any other organization.

Section 3. Graded qualifications

- a. *Christian Worker.* Efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service, and whenever possible remain under the supervision of a pastor, may be recognized as Christian Workers. They shall preach at least 12 times a year or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry except in case of ill health or infirmity.

- b. *License.* Qualifications for license shall be in two categories:

- (1) *Preaching ministry.* 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 20 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity.
- (2) *Specialized ministry.* An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, or other full-time ministries. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this Article shall apply.

- c. *Ordination.* Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

- (1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
- (2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
- (3) 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, evangelist, or some other recognized full-time ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
- (4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* They must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.
- (5) *Exceptions to residency requirement.* District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination 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 1 year. The applicant must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district in which the candidate was previously licensed, as well as the

district of his residence. In the event that an applicant has qualified and been approved for ordination by the district of his former residence before being publicly ordained, the district where he resides may waive the 1-year residence requirement and ordain him upon the request or approval of his former district.

- (6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers must preach at least 15 times each year.

Section 4. *Action of Credentials Committee*

- a. *Christian Workers and License.* The district councils have the authority to recognize approved candidates as Christian Workers and to grant licenses to those who qualify. The names of approved licensed ministers and Christian workers shall be reported to the office of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- b. *Ordination.* The General Council Executive Presbytery constitutes the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and has the authority to give recognition as approved ordained ministers to those endorsed and recommended by the district councils to the General Council Credentials Committee. This approval must be obtained prior to the public ordination. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

Section 5. *Certificates*

- a. *Christian Workers and License.* Licenses and Christian Workers Certificates shall be granted by district councils to properly qualified applicants.
- b. *Ordination.* The Executive Presbytery in its capacity as the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God is authorized to issue ordination certificates together with the accompanying annual fellowship cards.

Section 6. *Renewal of fellowship certificates*

- a. *Expiration date.* All fellowship certificates are valid only until January 31 of each year and must be renewed annually.
- b. *Grace period until February 15.* All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before February 15, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent.
- c. *Late fee after February 15.* Ministers who fail to renew

their credentials by February 15 shall be assessed a late fee of \$5.

- d. *Reinstatement required after March 1.* Ministers who have not renewed by March 1 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of January 31 and must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$10 fee in order to be reinstated.

Section 7. *Official list*

- a. *Active ministers.* An official list of all ordained and licensed ministers shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. 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. *Inactive ministers.* All ordained ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary. He shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise.
- (1) *Definition.* All ordained ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times within a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.
- (2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is definitely inactive for 2 consecutive years, his name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise by letter.
- (3) *Exceptions.* 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 such as headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God, regardless of age.

- c. *Restoration to active status.* Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the district officer.

Section 8. *Superannuated ministers*

(This section revised as per committee report on superannuation of ministers adopted on Friday morning.)

Section 9. *Ministerial relations*

- a. *Amenability.* 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. *Affiliation with district of residence.* 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.
- c. *Exception.* 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.
- d. *Cooperation with other districts.* Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers ordained and licensed conform to the financial policy of the district with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:
- (1) Foreign missionaries will be obligated to pay \$25 per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and \$10 per month when resident on the fields.
 - (2) Military chaplains would be obligated to their home district in the amount of \$5 per month per officer grade and encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their temporary duty assignments.

Section 10. *Transfer of credentials*

- a. *Certificate of Transfer.* When a member minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within 60 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.
- b. *Exceptions:* Exceptions may be made for the following:

- (1) Ministers moving to serve at general headquarters;
 - (2) Those who are retired from active ministry;
 - (3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty;
 - (4) Those who are serving on the faculties of schools affiliated with the General Council and district council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the district council in which the school is located;
 - (5) Those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home district;
 - (6) Students in schools outside of their home districts.
- c. *Transcript.* 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 11. *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 XVI. *Division of Home Missions*

Section 1. *Authorization and scope*

A motion prevailed to adopt Section 1.

Section 2. *Government and organization*

It was moved and seconded that Section 2 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that paragraph h of Section 2 be amended to read: "The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a department secretary for each department in the Division of Home Missions. The department secretaries together with the national director shall constitute an advisory committee." This would also affect the wording in sections 3, 4, and 5 of the article.

It was moved and seconded to refer the proposed amendment to the Executive Presbytery for its study and to make determination as to what the proper procedure would be. The motion to refer carried.

The motion to adopt Section 2 carried.

Section 3. *Department of New Church Evangelism*

A motion prevailed to adopt Section 3.

Section 4. *Department of Special Ministries.*

A motion prevailed to amend Section 4 (c), line 19, by deleting the

words "or belonging to a minority race."

It was moved and seconded to amend Section 4 (b) by adding a sentence following line 12 to read: "Field representatives may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to the respective Special Ministries as the need arises" and that paragraph (f), line 2, be amended by inserting the words *and field representatives* after the word "coordinator." It was noted that this provision is cared for in Section 1 (g). The motion was lost.

It was moved and seconded to change the word "handicaps" in line 17, paragraph (c), page 37, to *disadvantages*. The motion lost.

It was moved and seconded to place a period after the words "drug addiction" in line 18, paragraph (c), page 37, deleting the words "among youth." The motion was voted upon and declared carried.

The motion to adopt Section 4 as amended carried.

Section 5. *Department of the Chaplaincy*

It was moved and seconded that Section 5 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend line 2, page 40, by adding *also Civil Air Patrol chaplains*. Attention was called to the fact that Civil Air Patrol chaplains come under the terminology of "military chaplaincy" as noted on line 25, page 39. The motion lost.

A motion prevailed to amend Section 5 a. to read as follows:

a. Commission on Chaplains

- (1) The Department of the Chaplaincy shall function under the Commission on Chaplains which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Home Missions, by virtue of his office, together with eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two active-duty military chaplains, two institutional chaplains (one prison chaplain and one hospital chaplain), and two members at large.
- (2) The terms of office for the members of the commission shall be 2 years. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery.
- (3) There shall be a Department of Chaplaincy coordinator appointed by the Executive Presbytery who may also serve as the representative of Military Personnel Ministries or representative of Institutional and Industrial chaplaincy.
- (4) The coordinator and representatives shall be resource persons.

A motion prevailed that Section 5 a. be amended as follows:

a. Commission on Chaplains

- (1) The Department of the Chaplaincy shall function under a

Commission of Chaplains which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Home Missions, a representative of the military chaplaincy, and a representative of the institutional/industrial chaplaincy, one of whom shall be the coordinator of the Department of Chaplains and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two active-duty military chaplains, two institutional chaplains (one prison chaplain and one hospital chaplain), and two members at large.

(4) Delete.

Section 6. *Support*

It was moved and seconded that paragraph c., lines 4 and 5, page 41, be amended as follows: "1/3 of tithes for the national department; 1/3 for the district in which the minister is working; 1/3 for the district of which he is a member."

It was moved and seconded that the motion to amend Section c. be tabled until a study which is underway by the General Presbytery is completed, which would cover this. The motion to table was carried.

The chairman ruled that Section 6 if adopted would continue until such a time as it would be affected by a report of a committee.

It was moved and seconded that line 4, page 41, be amended by adding the word *nationally* before "appointed." This motion was carried.

The motion to adopt Section 6 as amended was carried.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XVI as amended as it was covered section by section.

Article XVI as amended and adopted follows:

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 Division of Home Missions.
- 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 three major departments:
 - (1) Department of New Church Evangelism
 - (2) Department of Special Ministries
 - (3) Department of the Chaplaincy

Section 2. *Government and organizations*

- a. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.
- b. The Division of Home Missions 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 2 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 division 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. A coordinator for each department in the Division of Home Missions shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The coordinators together with the national director shall constitute an advisory committee.
- i. All the work of the Division of Home Missions and the decisions of the Home Missions Board shall be under the general oversight of and amenable to the Executive Presbytery and subject to the review of the General Presbytery.

Section 3. *Department of New Church Evangelism*

- a. The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various district councils.
- b. There shall be a New Church Evangelism coordinator ap-

pointed by the Executive Presbytery.

- (1) He shall be amenable to and work in conjunction with the national director of home missions in New Church Evangelism.
- c. Practical assistance shall be provided by:
 - (1) Developing and promoting a fund from which grants may be provided to the various districts for establishing new churches.
 - (2) Developing a program to assist in financing the founding and establishing of new churches.
 - (3) Seeking to acquire information regarding various methods of financing and make this information available to various districts.
 - (4) Providing information of available materials such as evangelism literature, Sunday school materials, and other helps for the new church and supply these as funds permit.
 - (5) Providing promotional materials for districts, colleges, and local churches to impart vision and motivation for the planting and establishing of new churches.
 - (6) Assisting in the further development of programs for the involvement of students and faculty members from the Assemblies of God colleges in New Church Evangelism.
 - (7) Assisting in the development of curriculum materials related to New Church Evangelism for Assemblies of God colleges.
 - (8) Utilizing the personnel resources of our Fellowship in conjunction with MAPS (Mobilization and Placement Service) to assist in New Church Evangelism.
- d. The Division of Home Missions 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. *Department of Special Ministries*

- a. The Department of Special Ministries shall function in cooperation with the various districts. The Division of Home Missions 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. There shall be a Special Ministries coordinator, appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall coordinate Special Ministries as described in paragraph c below.
- c. The Department of Special Ministries shall provide ministry among those people in the United States who need special help by reason of cultural, ethnic, or language barriers; handicaps (such as deafness or blindness); geographical or institutional isolation; or drug addiction.
- d. 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 Division of Foreign Missions.
- e. Ministries to the deaf and blind shall be under the direction of a national representative.
- f. The Special Ministries coordinator shall be amenable to the national director of the Division of Home Missions.
- g. National home missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Board with the approval of their home districts and the districts 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.
- h. 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 the Chaplaincy*

a. Commission on Chaplains

- (1) The Department of the Chaplaincy shall function under a Commission on Chaplains which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Home Missions, a representative of the military chaplaincy, and a representative of the Institutional/Industrial Chaplaincy, one of whom shall be the coordinator of the Department of Chaplains, and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two active-duty military chaplains, two institutional chaplains (one prison chaplain and one hospital chaplain), and two members at large.
- (2) The term of office for the members of the commission

shall be 2 years. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery.

- (3) There shall be a Department of Chaplaincy coordinator appointed by the Executive Presbytery who may also serve as the representative of Military Personnel Ministries or representative of Institutional and Industrial Chaplaincy.
- b. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy
 - (1) The Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy (except Veteran's Administration Chaplaincy) shall be under the direction of a national representative.
 - (2) The ministry of this section will concern itself with the work of chaplains (except VAH Chaplaincy) in industries and institutions.
 - (3) The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.
- c. Military Chaplaincy
 - (1) The basic function of the Military Chaplaincy shall include:
 - (a) Responsibility for processing applications for candidates for the military chaplaincy and extending ecclesiastical approval and endorsement and appointing contact pastors for each of the active military bases in the United States.
 - (b) Responsibility for receiving support from various chaplains for the operation of the section of the Military Chaplaincy as well as offerings designated for this ministry.
 - (c) Responsibility for seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and to encourage them in entering open doors of ministry.
 - (d) Work among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.
 - (e) Work among service personnel known as Military Personnel Ministries. It shall be understood that there shall be a proper liaison between the Military Personnel Ministries work and that which is related to the service personnel's ministry overseas under the auspices of the Division of Foreign Missions.

Section 6. Support

Financial assistance in meeting the operating expense of the Division of Home Missions shall be provided from:

- a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan offerings (see Article XXIII. World Missions Plan). Churches which do not contribute under the World Missions Plan should designate a portion of their offering for home missions office expense.
- b. Offerings designated for office expense.
- c. Fifty percent of the tithes of all nationally appointed and/or approved home missions workers.
- d. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.
- e. Five percent of all funds for approved district, regional, or national home missions projects.

Procedural Motion

A motion prevailed that all reports which had been mailed out be acted upon without further reading, and that on all other items debate would be limited to three minutes per member.

Ordination of Women

A motion prevailed that the 37th General Council reaffirm its position on the ordination of women. (See Bylaw Article VII, Sec. 2 k.)

Report of the Spiritual Life Committee

The chairman of the committee requested that the committee secretary, David Flower, read the report, as follows:

The Spiritual Life Committee reports to you with a deep sense of appreciation to God for His hand of blessing which has rested upon our Fellowship over the past biennium.

We particularly take note of the five following areas:

1. PRAYER

Since the living church is moved by the power of prayer and spiritual revival is the heartbeat of an effective church, let us thank God for the evident expansion of united prayer meetings and gatherings in our regional, district, sectional, and local areas.

Let us all renewedly reach out to God in personal commitment of our time and hearts in prayer. Let us keep our church altars burning with intercessions and tears and our family and private altars alive with love. Let us, like Aaron and Hur, hold up the hands of our pastors and missionaries, together with

our national and district leaders, in prayer. Let this spiritual exercise give renewed manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit in our churches and the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Let us keep an open heart to God's sovereign move of His Spirit in the world today, maintaining the standards of God's Word for our church membership, and above all being leaders in establishing the pattern for this "new life" in the Holy Spirit being experienced by people from all walks of life and church communion.

2. EVANGELISM/CHURCH GROWTH

We observe that the preceding decade of world evangelism is directly the result of the fulfillment of God's sovereign prediction of the Holy Spirit's work in these last days.

Stimulating these events, in part in our Fellowship, has been the Council on Evangelism in St. Louis in 1968 and the emphasis of the threefold "Reason for Being" of the church by our leaders at all levels.

We gratefully take note of the increase of membership in our churches, the increase in Sunday School attendance, and the growth of our worldwide Fellowship. In this context we recommend that the Church Growth Convention in August 1978 be placed high in our priority for prayer and participation by our pastors and evangelists. We acknowledge that the ministry of the Holy Spirit in supernatural manifestations, together with the cooperation of the combined organizational efforts, will bring about continued growth and evangelism.

3. BIBLE

We commend the Evangelical Curriculum Commission in designating September 1978 through August 1979 as the "Year of the Bible." We believe this worthy emphasis beautifully contributes to our appreciation of the divinely inspired Word of God. We call upon our Fellowship to give attention to the reading of the Scriptures in public services, family life, and personal devotions. We urge pastors to bring a series of messages to their congregations that would give a greater appreciation for the authenticity of the Scriptures, the relevancy of the Word of God, and the great profit it brings to those who read and embrace it. Let there be a greater emphasis on expository preaching and Bible studies. We ask the editorial boards of our headquarters to appropriately complement this endeavor with articles of inspiration, interaction, and indoctrination.

4. YOUTH

It is evident that there is a spiritual awakening and renewed interest in the work of the Kingdom among our youth. This is seen in the largest enrollments ever in our schools and colleges. There is an increased interest and participation in the AIM, MAPS, Bible quiz, and talent programs of our Fellowship, together with reports of peak attendances at our youth camps.

Let our Fellowship be committed to the encouragement of these young people in their spiritual pursuits. Let our pastors give a place for their involvements in the local ministries. Let our colleges give strong emphasis to a "spiritual emphasis week" each year, as well as to encouraging our youth "unto the work of the ministry." Let them magnify the calling of the ministry to their students. Let our districts and churches encourage young ministers in their beginning years in order that there may be an increase in the retention of our younger men in the ministry.

5. BROTHERLY CONCERNS

We commend the Movement for its demonstration of the love of Christ by responding to human need wherever it is found. This was so beautifully exemplified by the spontaneous response for Guatemala where already 120 churches have been rebuilt, with \$½ million given and 450 MAPS workers rising to the challenge. The love of Christ is further shown in our country by Assemblies of God churches who have elected to stay in the inner-city, ministering to the spiritual and material needs of minority groups. We encourage the Movement in this trend to love not only in word but also in deed.

We encourage the use of the multimedia "God Cares" program being sponsored by our churches during the coming year. This is a practical outreach, through use of television and radio spots, bumper stickers, newspaper ads, and billboards, to touch people where they hurt.

In conclusion, let us commend our general superintendent and the executive brethren for their positive contribution to our spiritual welfare.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report of the Spiritual Life Committee be adopted.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Divisional and Departmental Reports as printed be approved.

Resolution 20. Guidelines for Geographical Districts

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 20. It was moved and seconded that it be adopted.

A motion prevailed to amend line 12, page 2, to read as follows: "shall be reduced to less than 10 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease."

The motion to adopt Resolution 20 as amended carried. Resolution 20 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, A committee appointed by the Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God has studied guidelines for geographical districts; and

WHEREAS, The committee reported to the General Presbytery, and upon hearing the report it has requested that the committee recommendations be referred to the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The committee has recommended that rather than a set of minimum number of churches being required to establish new districts, that specific guidelines be adopted, be it therefore RESOLVED, That Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws (page 91) "Boundaries" be revised by substitution to read:

Section 1. Formation of New Districts

- a. In isolated geographical areas where there is a growth and development potential, the first step may be the establishing of a conference status which would provide the supervision and assistance of an existing established district until the new district is capable of an aggressive program.
- b. Guidelines for the establishing of new districts shall include:
 - (1) Number of General Council affiliated churches.
 - (2) Size and maturity of the churches as to membership, leadership, and program ministries.
 - (3) The location, the size, and the potential growth of the geographical area under consideration.
 - (4) The effect the establishing of the proposed new district will have on the district or districts involved.
- c. The boundaries of the new district shall be determined or rearranged by cooperative agreement between the district or districts involved and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Article V, Section 4, paragraph (a) be amended by deleting the second sentence, which reads: "In the event an existing foreign language district shall be reduced to

less than 10 churches, its recognition shall cease"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we amend Article V by the addition of a new section to be identified as Section 5 as follows:

Section 5. Dissolution of District

- a. In the event an existing district (foreign language or geographical) shall be reduced to less than 10 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease.
- b. Guidelines for dissolution of foreign language districts are provided for in Section 4.
- c. Dissolution of geographical districts shall be the prerogative of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in cooperation and consultation with the original district or districts involved.

Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter

WHEREAS, The Reverend R. J. Carlson has served the Northwest District Council as district superintendent and district secretary, and in other important executive positions, including the office of general presbyter for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, The Northwest District Council has recommended that his name be presented by the General Presbytery to the General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbyter; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That R. J. Carlson be hereby elected as an honorary general presbyter in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 23 be adopted.

Resolution 24. Honorary General Presbyter

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph L. Gerhart has served as superintendent of the Northern California-Nevada District, as well as in a number of other executive positions in the district, including 24 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The Northern California-Nevada District Presbytery has recommended that his name be presented by the General Presbytery to the General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbyter; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect Dr. Joseph L. Gerhart as an honorary general presbyter in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 24 be adopted.

Resolution 25. Honorary General Presbyter

WHEREAS, The Reverend F. C. Chamberlain has served as

superintendent of the Louisiana District, and as a general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for 28 years; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana District Council has recommended that his name be presented by the General Presbytery to the General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbyter; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect F. C. Chamberlain as an honorary general presbyter, pursuant to the provisions of General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 25 be adopted.

Resolution 26. Honorary General Presbyter

WHEREAS, The Reverend W. Howard Roberson has served the Eastern District Council as assistant superintendent, district secretary, and as general presbyter for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, The Eastern District Council has recommended that his name be presented by the General Presbytery to the General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbyter; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect W. Howard Roberson as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 26 be adopted.

Resolution 28. Bill H.R. 41

Pertaining to Financial Disclosure by Charitable Organizations Which Solicit Funds by Mail

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States provides for the separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS, There is a bill—H.R. 41—before committee in Congress which authorizes procedures administered by the U.S. Postal Service which would require financial disclosure by all organizations soliciting charitable contributions by mail, including internal financial information, standardized accounting procedures, and potential audit by this governmental agency; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 41 violates the constitutional requirement that church and state be separate, infringing upon both the establishment and free exercises clauses of the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 41 violates the equal protection clause, penalizing a certain class of mail users by imposing a separate burden on them that is not placed on any other mail user; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 41 constitutes a prior restraint which the U.S.

Supreme Court has said is not permissible under the Constitution, imposing restrictions on those engaged in charitable solicitations based upon tacit implications that those engaged in such solicitations could be engaged in fraudulent practices; and valid ways presently exist to deal with those who violate the law through fraudulent and deceptive practices without imposing excessive burdens upon the innocent; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That this General Council in session August 18-23, 1977, express its opposition to Bill H.R. 41; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress to preserve the principles of separation of church and state and not jeopardize the important constitutional freedom of free exercise of religion by regulations designed to prevent the unethical practices of a few.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 28 be adopted.

Resolution 29. Rehabilitation of Ministers

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 29 be adopted.

By common consent it was agreed that this be inserted in the bylaws under (c) rather than (d) as indicated in lines 23 and 24 of the resolution.

A question was raised as to the dates of reporting. By common consent it was agreed that the date "July 1" in the resolution be corrected to read *August 1*.

The motion to adopt Resolution 29 was carried.

Resolution 29 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Ordination of all Assemblies of God ministers is vested and held by the General Council, but conferred by the candidates' home districts; and

WHEREAS, An ordained minister of the Assemblies of God coming under discipline may have his ordination lifted and/or suspended upon the recommendation of his home district; and

WHEREAS, The Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God validates the recommendation of the district and depends upon the home district of the minister under discipline to follow through with the discipline and restoration of the man to his ordination and/or ministry; and

WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has not required each district to give account to the Credentials Committee of the General Council in a uniform way of the progress made in the restoration of ministers under discipline; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year, the Credentials Committee of each district submit a pro-

gress report to the Credentials Committee of the General Council relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline, as outlined in Article IX, Section 9, of the General Council Bylaws and in accord with the adopted "Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Disciplined Ministers"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaw Article IX, Section 9, be amended by the addition of the following to be known as (c):

- (c) The Credentials Committee of the district shall submit to the Credentials Committee of the General Council on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the remaining paragraphs be relettered accordingly.

Resolution 30. Social Security Restrictions

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 30 be adopted.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 30 be amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be requested to appoint a standing committee of five ministers, who are resident in Springfield, Missouri, to serve as a continuing fact-finding group, to ascertain the correct information concerning Social Security regulations, and to report their findings periodically to the Executive Presbytery, in order that this information may be disseminated to our constituency.

The motion to adopt Resolution 30 as amended carried.

Resolution 30 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Nearly all workers in the United States are now included in the Social Security program; and

WHEREAS, Certain restrictions are placed upon salaried workers who have gone into the Social Security program as to the amount of money they can earn in a given month or year; and

WHEREAS, Self-employed persons, which includes clergymen, are restricted to working 45 hours per month in "substantial services"; and

WHEREAS, Failure to observe these restrictions results in a large reduction of benefits of \$1 for every \$2 earned; and

WHEREAS, The "substantial services" provision includes travel time, thus severely limiting retired clergymen in the scope of their activity and depriving our congregations of the benefits of their ministry; and

WHEREAS, Such limitations constitute grave discrimination against older citizens (both laymen and ministers), who now constitute the largest minority segment of our population, hindering them from making the fullest possible contribution to the well-being and productivity of our nation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council in session go on record as deploring these unfair restrictions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our general secretary be instructed to communicate these sentiments to the proper agencies and committees of our Congress and the American Association of Retired Persons, urging that this discrimination be discontinued; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be requested to appoint a standing committee of five ministers, who are resident in Springfield, Missouri, to serve as a continuing fact-finding group, to ascertain the correct information concerning Social Security regulations, and to report their findings periodically to the Executive Presbytery, in order that this information may be disseminated to our constituency.

Resolution 32. Right of Appeal for a Disciplined Minister

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 8, second paragraph, and Article IX, Section 11, first paragraph, stipulate that a disciplined minister may file an appeal for a trial within 30 days from the date of the notification of the district decision; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 7. b. (2), of the bylaws states that "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"; and

WHEREAS, Final authorization for disciplinary action is the responsibility of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Bylaw Article IX, Section 7. b. (2), and Section 8, first and second paragraphs), and therefore it would be more appropriate for the 30 days allowed for the accused to request a trial to begin with the notification from the Credentials Committee of the General Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article IX, Section 8, second paragraph, both the third sentence and the fourth sentence, be amended by substituting the words, *The decision of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, for the words, "the district decision"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the first two sentences of the second paragraph be added to the first paragraph, which shall become paragraph "a. *District Recommendation*," that the last two sentences become paragraph "c. *Right of Appeal*," and that the present third paragraph become paragraph "b. *General Council Credentials Committee Action*"; so that Section 8 will appear as follows:

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

- a. *District recommendation.* 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 recommendation 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.
- b. *General Council Credentials Committee action.* 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.
- c. *Right of Appeal.* Thirty days from the date of the notification of the decision of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be allowed for the accused to request a trial. He shall be apprised officially of this right at the time the decision of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God is made.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article IX. B. Section 11, be amended by substituting the following for the first two sentences: "If a disciplined minister desires to appeal from the decision that has been rendered, his request shall be filed by him with the office of the general superintendent within 30 days of his notification. A copy of his appeal must be sent to the superintendent of the minister's home district, and copies filed with other districts involved."; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the sections under "B. Trial by Jury" (page

111) be renumbered so that they will be indicated as Sections 1 through 15.

Resolution 33. Resolution of Appreciation

WHEREAS, The success of this 37th session of The General Council of the Assemblies of God is attributable to the enablement of the Holy Spirit and the dedicated talents and diligent industriousness of many persons and agencies; be it

RESOLVED, That expressions of appreciation from this body be directed wherever practical by the general secretary to the following;

The Governor of the State of Oklahoma; the City of Oklahoma City and its police department; news media; the Convention Bureau; area hotels and motels; management and staff of Myriad Convention Center; and our genial hosts, The Oklahoma District Council and its superintendent, Brother Robert E. Goggin.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 33. The motion carried unanimously.

The chairman expressed appreciation to the members for their diligence in helping to take care of every item of business before the General Council, and for the high level of decorum on the floor.

Appreciation was also expressed to the recording secretaries, Verna Flower, Betty Wannenmacher, and Jewell Woodward, for their assistance during the General Council.

With thanksgiving to God for the wonderful blessings that have been bestowed upon the 37th General Council, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Those in favor were asked to rise.

The Doxology was sung and R. C. Cunningham, editor of *The Pentecostal Evangel*, was asked to dismiss in prayer. Following the singing of "Keep Me True," the 37th General Council was declared adjourned *sine die* at 12 noon, August 23, 1977.

JOSEPH R. FLOWER
GENERAL SECRETARY

Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to August 23, 1977

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 prove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness 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 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 fulness 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 principles 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; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms "Trinity" and "persons," as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. Luke 1:35; 1 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3, 4.

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one. John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zech. 14:9.

(d) Identity and 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; Hebrews 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 sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The 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 an 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. 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. 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. Right of initiative. 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 15 ordained ministers, may be considered sufficient reason for the call of a special session, such statement to be filed with the Executive Presbytery, which 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. Officers and terms of office. 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 3 months after the date of election. The term of office for the general superintendent shall continue for 4 years or until his successor qualifies. The terms of office for all other officers shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

b. Board of Administration. The executive officers shall constitute a Board of Administration.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

a. Composition and terms of office. 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 8 other brethren to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 13. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery, except as stated in Section 1, shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

b. A Board of Directors. 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

a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities. 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.

b. Executive presbyters ex officio members. All members of the Executive Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

c. **Foreign missions representation.** The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the field secretaries of the Division of Foreign Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the field secretaries represent.

d. **Honorary general presbyters.** 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.** 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. **Area of supervision.** 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. **Foreign language districts.** 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)

d. **Credentialing authority.** 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. **Areas of authority.** The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings.

f. **Amenability to General Council.** 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 constitu-

tional 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. 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.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

a. **Standard for membership.** 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.

b. **Relationship to and support of district.** 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.

c. **Right of self-government (sovereign rights).** 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.

d. **Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.** 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.

e. **Right of appeal.** When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the district officer for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officer to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council 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 Execu-

tive Presbytery, either by the local assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

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

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

The assets of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, the same being stated fully in its Articles of Agreement and heretofore in the articles of this constitution. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets will be distributed to a nonprofit organization, or to nonprofit organizations, which are organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section the organization or organizations shall have established tax-exempt status.

ARTICLE XIII. 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 6 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 60 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 lives and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

a. General superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary. 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 15 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. General presbyters. Election of general presbyters shall take place at the district council meetings.

c. Nonresident executive presbyters

(1) *Nominations and elections.* 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.

(2) *Area divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters.* 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, Georgia, North Carolina, Peninsular Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina
 Foreign Language Districts: Nominees from foreign language districts shall be included on the ballot of and be voted upon along with the nominees from the same area in which the district office is located.

d. Boards of education and foreign missions members. For the purpose of selection by the General Presbytery of the members of the Board of Education in compliance with Bylaw Article XII, Section 3, paragraph b. (3), and of the Foreign Missions Board as provided for in Article XV, Section 2, members of foreign language districts shall vote with the area in which the district office is located. Foreign missionaries on furlough shall vote with their home districts.

e. General treasurer. 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. Executive director of foreign missions. 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. Executive officers. In the event any of the executive officers 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. General presbyters. 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 the 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 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.

d. He shall serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the Credentials Committee, and the Board of Administration and shall keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.

e. He shall be authorized to edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.

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

He shall be the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery. Under his direction the division shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

a. Keep a record of all decisions of the Foreign Missions Committee and of all official acts of the Division of Foreign Missions.

b. Conduct all correspondence with prospective missionaries and with those already on the field.

c. Prepare the missionary columns in the *Pentecostal Evangel*

from missionary letters and reports.

d. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governments or authorities where our missionary work is involved.

e. Direct the missionary activities of the Fellowship.

f. Distribute all missionary funds as directed by the donors by agreement with the Foreign Missions Committee.

g. Keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.

h. Act as a purchasing agent for missionary supplies.

i. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Presbytery

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 Presbytery shall have the right and duty of interpreting policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presbytery. 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 Presbytery, 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 Presbytery shall communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before final action shall be taken. The Executive Presbytery shall be amenable to the General Presbytery.

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 Presbytery 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 Presbytery.

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 Presbytery.

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 Presbytery.

Section 8. Duties of the General Presbytery

a. The General Presbytery shall be empowered to act in all matters pertaining to foreign missionary and ministerial relationships, and all matters which pertain to the proper functioning of departments and institutions in the Fellowship. Should an irreconcilable difference arise between the General Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery, the decision of the General Presbytery 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 Gen-

eral 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 the 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 ministers, such badges to indicate the classification of ordained ministers, foreign missionaries, licensed ministers, delegates from assemblies, visitors, etc.

Section 4. Resolutions Committee

a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions. A Resolutions Committee shall, be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the General Council, except emergency

measures, shall be presented to the general secretary's office at least 100 days prior to a General Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and mail them to the General Council ministers and churches 30 days prior to the General Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery meetings just prior to the General Council; and that resolutions of an emergency nature be decided by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

b. Sponsorship policy. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the General Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesman therefor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

c. Appropriateness of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of a proposed resolution, including the following criteria in its decision:

- (1) Possible conflict with the corporate charter, constitution, bylaws; and
- (2) Those proposals absurd in substance.

d. Format of presentation. The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form; and
- (2) Eliminate duplication where similar resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in a logical sequence.

e. Right of sponsor. If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise him of his right to present the proposed resolution to the house for determination as to appropriateness.

Section 5. Other Committees

Other committees may be appointed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS

Section 1. Formation of New Districts

a. Conference status. In isolated geographical areas where there is a growth and development potential, the first step may be the establishing of a conference status which would provide the supervision and assistance of an existing established district until the new district is capable of an aggressive program.

b. Guidelines. Guidelines for the establishing of new districts shall include:

- (1) Number of General Council affiliated churches.
- (2) Size and maturity of the churches as to membership, leadership, and program ministries.

(3) The location, the size, and the potential growth of the geographical area under consideration.

(4) The effect the establishing of the proposed new district will have on the district or districts involved.

c. Boundaries. The boundaries of the new district shall be determined or rearranged by cooperative agreement between the district or districts involved 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. Recognition qualifications. In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, a foreign language group must have a minimum number of 20 churches. If a group 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. Equality with geographical districts. 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. Cooperative relationship. 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. Church transfer procedure. 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 XI).

Section 5. Dissolution of District

a. **Loss of recognition.** In the event an existing district (foreign language or geographical) shall be reduced to less than 10 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease.

b. **Foreign language districts guidelines.** Guidelines for dissolution of foreign language districts are provided for in Section 4.

c. **Geographical districts guidelines.** Dissolution of geographical districts shall be the prerogative of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in cooperation and consultation with the original district or districts involved.

ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Membership Certificates

The general secretary's 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 Church Report

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. **Investigation of strangers seeking ministry.** 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. **Use of Assemblies of God evangelists recommended.** 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. **Information reciprocity.** 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.

Section 4. New Assemblies Resulting From a Division

a. **Status of assembly.** When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congrega-

tion being formed, the district should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and district policy, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

b. **Status of minister.** Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with him as provided in Article IX, Section 2, of the bylaws.

Section 5. Transfer of Local Church Membership

a. **Letter of introduction.** It is recommended that the member shall request a letter of introduction from the church of which he is a member to be sent by mail to the church with which he wishes to affiliate.

b. **Acknowledgment of transfer.** It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

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.

Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

a. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).

b. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues 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).

c. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

d. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

e. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

f. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and district council constitutions and bylaws.

g. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.

h. **Educational requirements.** Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they complete the prescribed study courses of the Berean School of the Bible or equivalent training in an approved school, and pass examinations, together with other training as may be prescribed by respective district councils in conformity with such provisions as are made for applicants by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

i. **Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or district councils granting credentials to such, if either marriage partner has a former companion living, except as hereinafter provided.

j. **Annulments and marriage dissolutions.** 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.

k. **Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women 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, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church when such acts are necessary.

l. **Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, a recommendation from that body should accompany his application. However, the credentials committees of both the General Council

and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his own merits in the light of Assemblies of God criteria. It is expected that ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their affiliation with any other organization.

Section 3. Graded Qualifications

a. **Christian worker.** Efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service, and whenever possible remain under the supervision of a pastor, may be recognized as Christian workers. They shall preach at least 12 times a year or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry except in case of ill health or infirmity.

b. **License.** Qualifications for license shall be in two categories:

(1) *Preaching ministry.* 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 20 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity.

(2) *Specialized ministry.* An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, or other full-time ministries. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this article shall apply.

c. **Ordination.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

(1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.

(2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.

(3) 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, evangelist, or some other recognized full-time ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

(4) *Residency requirement of applicants.* They must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

(5) *Exceptions to residency requirement.* District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensee shall have resided in the district in which he is seeking ordination at least 1 year. The applicant must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district in which the candidate was previously licensed, as well as the district

of his residence. In the event that an applicant has qualified and been approved for ordination by the district of his former residence before being publicly ordained, the district where he resides may waive the 1-year residency requirement and ordain him upon the request or approval of his former district.

(6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers must preach at least 15 times each year.

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

a. Christian worker and license. The district councils have the authority to recognize approved candidates as Christian workers and to grant licenses to those who qualify. The names of approved licensed ministers and Christian workers shall be reported to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Ordination. The General Council Executive Presbytery constitutes the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and has the authority to give recognition as approved ordained ministers to those endorsed and recommended by the district councils to the General Council Credentials Committee. This approval must be obtained prior to the public ordination. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

Section 5. Certificates

a. Christian worker and license. Licenses and Christian workers certificates shall be granted by district councils to properly qualified applicants.

b. Ordination. The Executive Presbytery in its capacity as the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God is authorized to issue ordination certificates together with the accompanying annual fellowship cards.

Section 6. Renewal of Fellowship Certificates

a. Expiration date. All fellowship certificates are valid only until January 31 of each year and must be renewed annually.

b. Grace period until February 15. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before February 15, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent.

c. Late fee after February 15. Ministers who fail to renew their credentials by February 15 shall be assessed a late fee of \$5.

d. Reinstatement required after March 1. Ministers who have not renewed by March 1 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration

date of January 31, and must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$10 fee in order to be reinstated.

Section 7. Official List

a. Active ministers. An official list of all ordained and licensed ministers shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. 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. Inactive ministers. All ordained ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary. He shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise.

(1) *Definition.* All ordained ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times within a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

(2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is definitely inactive for 2 consecutive years, his name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise by letter.

(3) *Exceptions.* 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 such as headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God, regardless of age.

c. Restoration to active status. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the district officary.

Section 8. Senior Ministers

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders who have reached the age of 65, whether they continue in full-time ministry or not.

a. Terminology

(1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve three-quarters to full-time in the ministry.

(2) The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half time or less.

(3) The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

b. Application for retired category. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secretary shall forward annually to the general secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

c. Guidelines

(1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

(2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from his ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.

(3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status appropriately indicated in the Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers.

(4) *Support of General Council headquarters.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate \$3 monthly to the support of the General Council headquarters. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

d. Limitations of this Section 8

(1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 8 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official legislation under which their members serve.

(2) *Other financial responsibility not circumvented.* No part of Section 8 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the Biblical responsibility for tithing.

Section 9. Ministerial Relations

a. Amenability. 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. Affiliation with district of residence. 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.

c. Exception. 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.

d. Cooperation with other districts. Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers ordained and licensed conform to the financial policy of the district with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:

(1) *Financial responsibility of foreign missionaries.* Foreign missionaries will be obligated to pay \$25 per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and \$10 per month when resident on their fields.

(2) *Financial responsibility of military chaplains.* Military chaplains will be obligated to their home district in the amount of \$5 per month per officer grade and encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their temporary duty assignments.

Section 10. Transfer of Credentials

a. Certificate of transfer. When a member minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within 60 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.

b. Exceptions. Exceptions may be made for the following:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at general headquarters;

(2) Those who are retired from active ministry;

(3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty;

(4) Those who are serving on the faculties of schools affiliated with the General Council and district council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the district council in which the school is located;

(5) Those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home district;

(6) Students in schools outside their home districts.

c. **Transcript.** 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 11. 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.

e. **Credentials jeopardized if made an issue.** 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 wholehearted 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) *Marriage entanglements before conversion.* 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) *Common-law marriage.* 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) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* 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) *Prerogative of local assemblies.* 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) *Ministerial guidelines.* 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) *Violation of conscience not required.* 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 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 2, paragraphs "i" and "j.")

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 missions 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 relation of the Assemblies of God 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

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

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 district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. 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.

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 of 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. (Cf. Article VIII, Section 10.)

Section 3. Initiative

a. **Authority.** 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.

b. **Prior right of district.** The officary of the district in which the 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, A, 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.

c. **Responsibility of 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.

d. **Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee.** In the event the district fails to take action within 90 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. Within United States. 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. Outside United States. In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of the Division of Foreign Missions, 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 Division of Foreign Missions shall convey all information available to the home district in the following manner.

(1) *Report to home district.* At the earliest date after the Division of Foreign Missions 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) *Confidential file.* 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) *Additional information.* When in the judgment of the Division of Foreign Missions 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.

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 refused 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 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. 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 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, A, 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, A, Section 9). The Credentials Committees shall weigh decisions on the basis of the offense itself, the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, the manner and thoroughness of his repentance, the desire he manifests to cooperate, and the possibility of success in his rehabilitation. In the event rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, the minister shall be listed as having been dismissed. His name shall be published as dismissed in the ministers letter known as "Assemblies of God Minister."

(2) *Publication only after notification.* 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

a. District recommendation. 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 recommendation 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.

b. General Council Credentials Committee action. 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.

c. Right of appeal. Thirty days from the date of the notification of the decision of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be allowed for the accused to request a trial. He shall be apprised officially of this right at the time the decision of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God is made.

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, A, 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:

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

b. Period of time. The period of rehabilitation shall be not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Section 2a in which it shall be for not less than 2 years.

c. Procedure and requirements. The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements to rehabilitation for the individual minister.

(1) *Suspension.* 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.

(2) *District member with conditions.* 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.

(3) *District progress reports.* The Credentials Committee of the district shall submit to the Credentials Committee of the General Council on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

(4) *Minister's reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(5) *Classified information.* 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.

(6) *Completion of rehabilitation.* When the rehabilitation period is satisfactorily completed, the minister shall be considered in good standing and his credentials restored.

(7) *Terms subject to district discretion.* The terms of rehabilitation as above stated shall be administered at the discretion of the district presbytery.

(8) *Ministerial benefits not forfeited.* During the period of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the Ministers Group Insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

d. Eligibility for rehabilitation. 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 2-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 10. 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 6 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 1 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 2 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) *Renewed.* 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 March 1 and are restored to the ministerial list.

(2) *Reinstatement.* 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 Article IX. B. Trial by Jury, Section 13.)

B. TRIAL BY JURY

Section 1. Right of Appeal and Authorization for a Trial

If a disciplined minister desires to appeal from the decision that has been rendered, his request shall be filed by him with the office of the general superintendent within 30 days of his notification. A copy of his appeal must be sent to the superintendent of the minister's home district, and 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 2. 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 3. 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 4. 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 5. 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 6. Notice of Trial

Preceding the trial the accused shall be notified by the judge of the time and place of trial by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested. Up to 30 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 7. 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 trial 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 proceeding 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 Committees 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 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 shall 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 will be selected.

Section 12. 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 district 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 13. 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 30 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 14. 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 30 days following the notification of the decision of the Appeals Board.

Section 15. 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 officary.

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 coor-

inating 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. **Coordinator.** 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. **Committee on Mission and its function.** 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. **Composition of Committee on Mission.** 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.** 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. Functions

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 2 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. **Sphere of authority.** There shall be a Division of Christian Education which shall have general oversight over the Church School Literature Department and the Education Department.

b. **Purpose.** The purpose of the division is to correlate the emphases on curriculum development and training of church leaders.

c. **National director.** 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. **Amenability.** 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. Church School Literature Department

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) *Editor.* 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) *Responsibility of Executive Presbytery.* 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.

(3) *Approval for budget changes.* 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 Publication before being initiated.

Section 2. Education Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibility.* There shall be an Education Department 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) *Purpose.* 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) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

(2) *Board of Education.* The government and work of the Education Department 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 the Division 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) *Selection of board.* 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) *Board-terms of office, authority, and amenability.* The members of the Board of Education will serve for terms of 3 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 Education Department 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 Education Department to seek to maintain a high level of spirituality in all our schools and to guard against any departure from the doctrines and spiritual experiences set forth in our Statement of Fundamental Truths. This department shall also encourage educational and administrative efficiency in the various schools.

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

It shall be the duty of the Education Department to conduct a

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

a. *New schools.* 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. *Expansion of school services.* To recommend the broadening of the scope of individual school services.

c. *Standard for endorsement.* 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. *General service to all schools.* The Education Department 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

a. *Annual certificates of endorsement.* The Education Department 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 Education Department and has been officially approved by such department.

b. *Supervision of funds.* It shall be the prerogative of the Education Department 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.

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

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

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

ARTICLE XIII. DIVISION OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

a. **Sphere of authority.** There shall be a Division of Church Ministries which shall have general oversight over the following departments: Men's Ministries, Music, Sunday School, Women's Ministries, and Youth.

b. **Purpose.** The purpose of the division is to coordinate and correlate local church programs on the national level.

c. **National director.** 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. **Amenability.** 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 Ministries Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Men's Ministries 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) *Functions.* The functions 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) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

(2) *National Men's Ministries Committee.* There shall be a national Men's Ministries Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, the secretary of Light-for-the-Lost, coordinator of Action Crusades, commander of Royal Rangers, and four representatives—one from each of the above areas and one at large to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

Section 2. Music Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Functions.* There shall be a Music Department 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) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* 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) *Department secretary.* 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) *National Music Committee.* There shall be a national Music Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, and three others appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

(3) *Approval for budget changes.* The preparation of new mate-

rials or changes in style and format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publication before being initiated.

Section 3. Sunday School Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* 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) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* 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.

(3) *Functions.* 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) *Department secretary.* 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) *National Sunday School Committee.* There shall be a national Sunday School Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, and three others appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

c. Official publication. The *Sunday School Counselor* shall be recognized as the official publication of the Sunday School Department.

d. District organization(s)

(1) Provision shall be made for a district Sunday school depart-

ment 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 Ministries Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Women's Ministries 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) *Functions.* 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 conventions, seminars, and rallies concerning Women's Ministries 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 Ministries through the media of the *Pentecostal Evangel* and other periodicals as opportunity affords.

b. Government and Organization

(1) *Department secretary.* 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) *National Women's Ministries Committee.* There shall be a national Women's Ministries Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, Y coordinator, Missionettes coordinator, and four representatives from the above areas of ministry appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

c. Funds

(1) *National Women's Ministries Day offerings.* An annual National Women's Ministries Day shall be observed at which time the ministry of the department shall be promoted. It is recommended that an offering be received in each church which shall be sent to the national Women's Ministries Department for use in support of the national office and to aid in costs of services it offers to district and local units.

(2) *Tithing of income to district and national offices.* To aid further in support of the work at both district and national levels, it is urged that each local Women's Ministries group shall be faithful in tithing its income into the district Women's Ministries office and the district Women's Ministries office in turn to tithe to the national office.

Section 5. Youth Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* 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) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* 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) *Functions.* 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) *Department secretary.* 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) *National Youth Committee.* There shall be a national Youth Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, with three others from the field at large, appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

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 35 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.

f. Speed-the-Light offerings. (See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan, Section 2.)

ARTICLE XIV. DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Division of Communications which shall have general oversight over the following areas: Auxiliary Communication, the Office of Information, the *Pentecostal Evangel*, Radio and Television, and Audiovisual Services.

b. Purpose. 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. National director. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the Gen-

eral Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Communications.

d. Amenability. 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. Promotional periodicals. 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. Editors. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to employ editors as may be needed.

Section 2. Office of Information

a. Disseminator of news. 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. Host to visitors. The office shall provide services as needed in hosting visitors to general headquarters.

c. Secretary of information. 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) *Official organ.* 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) *Function of division.* The preparation of the *Pentecostal Evangel* shall be a function of the Division of Communications.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Editor.* There shall be an editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel* who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Amenability.* 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.

(3) *Approval for budget changes.* 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 Publication.

Section 4. Radio and Television Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* 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) *National broadcast.* 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) *Program policies.* 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) *Transcription library.* 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) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

(2) *Radio and Television Committee.* 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) *Terms of office.* The Radio and Television Committee shall serve a 2-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.

Section 5. Audiovisual Services

a. Authorization and purpose. Audiovisual Services shall:

(1) Acquire and maintain such equipment as necessary to produce audiovisual materials;

(2) Assist departments in the preparation of audiovisual materials;

(3) Provide consultation to departments, missionaries, church officials, and others on production of audiovisual materials;

(4) Build and maintain a rental library of films, filmstrips, slides, video tapes, tape and/or phonograph recordings, which shall be available to our constituency;

(5) Produce a catalog of rental films—those produced by the Assemblies of God and other film makers;

(6) Make available additional services as authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Audiovisual representative.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint an audiovisual representative who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

(2) *Audiovisual Film Committee.* There shall be an Audiovisual Film Committee which shall recommend films to be included in the library and classification of films and/or recordings. The committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the audiovisual representative, and three others appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Terms of office.* The Audiovisual Film Committee shall serve a 2-year period or until its successors are appointed.

ARTICLE XV. DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Section 1. Authorization and purpose

a. Sphere of authority. 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 Division of Foreign Missions to which shall be committed all the foreign missions interests of the Fellowship.

b. Agency to fulfill church's mission. 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. Indigenous principle. 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. Consultation with established Pentecostal missions. In fields where Pentecostal missionaries are already stationed, consultation shall be had with the brethren on the field and the Division of Foreign Missions and a satisfactory plan agreed upon before an attempt shall be made to establish new stations in such localities.

e. Church support. Every assembly shall be encouraged to assume definite responsibility for full or partial support of one or more missionaries in cooperation with the Division of Foreign Missions.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. Executive director. The executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions shall be elected in the manner described in Article II, Section 2, paragraph "f" of the bylaws.

b. Division secretary. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a secretary of the Division of Foreign Missions who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

c. Amenability. 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. Foreign Missions Board

(1) *Composition.* The activities of the Division of Foreign Missions 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.

(2) *Terms of office.* The term of office of the appointed pastors shall be for 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.

(3) *Responsibilities.* 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:

(a) Evaluate missions policies consistently in the light of changing conditions.

(b) Devise and publish a code of procedure that will serve to

guide the division and board in matters of discipline.

(c) Establish clear, decisive standards of ethics that shall govern in the relationships between all parties concerned with the missions program.

(d) Declare clearly the position of the board in matters relating to specific field problems.

(e) 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.

(4) *Appeal from decision of Board of Appeals.* 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. 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. Foreign Missions Committee. 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 division. 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. General Presbytery representatives. 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 Division of Foreign Missions, 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. Laymen's Advisory Committee. 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 Division of Foreign Missions.

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 3 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 Division of Foreign Missions

The expense of operating the Division of Foreign Missions 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 Division of Foreign Missions.

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

Section 4. Missionary Candidates

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

b. **Examination criteria.** 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) As to 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. **Support responsibility.** 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. **Specialized service.** 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. **Unused funds.** 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. **Appointee requirements.** All persons making application for appointment as missionaries shall be expected to meet the requirements of the Division of Foreign Missions.

g. **Deficit operation.** The Division of Foreign Missions shall confine its missions 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. **Language study.** Each missionary shall be expected to devote 2 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. Funds for administrative expense. The undesignated funds sent to the Division of Foreign Missions shall be distributed to those who have received the appointment of the Foreign Missions Board, with the exception that up to 10 percent of undesignated funds may be used by the Division of Foreign Missions for administrative expense.

b. Emergency fund. All funds assigned to particular persons shall be forwarded by the Division of Foreign Missions exactly as directed, except that 5 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 Division of Foreign Missions is responsible.

c. Financial report. It is requested that all missionaries send a monthly or quarterly report of moneys received and submit a budget of expenses to the Division of Foreign Missions. It shall not be incumbent upon the Division of Foreign Missions to send of its undesignated funds to missionaries who do not furnish such a report.

d. Departure approval required. Missionaries expecting the endorsement and aid of the Division of Foreign Missions shall report to the Division of Foreign Missions and receive its approval before leaving this country. The Division of Foreign Missions shall assume no responsibility whatever, where the foregoing requirements are not complied with.

e. District support. 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 Division of Foreign Missions shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

Section 7. Field Organizations

a. Autonomous organizations. 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. Field fellowships. Missionary field fellowships composed of all missionaries under appointment by the Division of Foreign Missions, shall be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These field fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Division of Foreign Missions since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the field fellowship. The missionary field fellowships shall serve in a consultative capacity to the Division of Foreign Missions 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 Division of Foreign Missions but shall avoid encroaching on the sphere of activities of their respective national Assemblies of God organizations.

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

c. General Presbytery representation. 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. Investment principles. 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 Division of Foreign Missions, these principles shall be followed:

(1) *Title to missionary residences.* All missionary residences shall be held in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God wherever legally possible.

(2) *Title to institutional properties.* It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. However, the Division of Foreign Missions 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) *Exceptions.* 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) **Title policy on General Council loans.** In all cases where the Division of Foreign Missions 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. Field fellowship project endorsement. 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 Division of Foreign Missions.

c. Legal documents. 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 Division of Foreign Missions for file.

Section 9. National Workers

a. Standards. 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. Administration of funds. 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. Purpose. 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 Division of Foreign Missions in planning for his own financial interests and for the good of the work in general.

b. Approval. The length and frequency of furloughs shall be determined by the Division of Foreign Missions in consultation with the missionary fellowships on the various fields. It shall not be incumbent on the Division of Foreign Missions 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 Division of Foreign Missions.

c. Reappointment. It shall be the responsibility of the missionary field fellowship to recommend to the Division of Foreign Missions

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. Severance allowance. 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 Division of Foreign Missions to continue his allowance for more than 6 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. Sphere of authority. 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 Division of Home Missions.

b. Agency to fulfill church's mission. 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. Departments. The work of the division shall include three major departments:

- (1) New Church Evangelism Department
- (2) Special Ministries Department
- (3) Chaplaincy Department

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. National director. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

b. Home Missions Board. The Division of Home Missions 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. Board elections. The members of the Home Missions Board shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

d. Board terms. A term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that one-half of the terms expire annually.

e. Board responsibilities. 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 division decisions.

f. Home Missions Committee. 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. 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. Coordinators and Advisory Committee. A coordinator for each department in the Division of Home Missions shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The coordinators together with the national director shall constitute an Advisory Committee.

i. Amenability. All the work of the Division of Home Missions and the decisions of the Home Missions Board shall be under the general oversight of and amenable to the Executive Presbytery and subject to the review of the General Presbytery.

Section 3. New Church Evangelism Department

a. Function. The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various district councils.

b. Coordinator. There shall be a New Church Evangelism coordinator appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be amenable to and work in conjunction with the national director of home missions in New Church Evangelism.

c. Purposes. Practical assistance shall be provided by:

(1) Developing and promoting a fund from which grants may be provided to the various districts for establishing new churches.

(2) Developing a program to assist in financing the founding and establishing of new churches.

(3) Seeking to acquire information regarding various methods of financing and make this information available to various districts.

(4) Providing information of available materials such as evangelism literature, Sunday school materials, and other helps for the new church and supply these as funds permit.

(5) Providing promotional materials for districts, colleges, and local churches to impart vision and motivation for the planting and establishing of new churches.

(6) Assisting in the further development of programs for the involvement of students and faculty members from the Assemblies of God colleges in New Church Evangelism.

(7) Assisting in the development of curriculum materials related to New Church Evangelism for Assemblies of God colleges.

(8) Utilizing the personnel resources of our Fellowship in conjunction with MAPS (Mobilization and Placement Service) to assist in New Church Evangelism.

d. Liaison with districts. The Division of Home Missions 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. Cooperation with districts. The Special Ministries Department shall function in cooperation with the various districts. The Division of Home Missions 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. Coordinator. There shall be a Special Ministries coordinator, appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall coordinate Special Ministries as described in paragraph "c" below.

c. Specialized fields. The Special Ministries Department shall provide ministry among those people in the United States who need special help by reason of cultural, ethnic, or language barriers; handicaps (such as deafness or blindness); geographical or institutional isolation; or drug addiction.

d. Teen Challenge representative. 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 Division of Foreign Missions.

e. Representative to deaf and blind. Ministries to the deaf and blind shall be under the direction of a national representative.

f. Coordinator amenability. The Special Ministries coordinator shall be amenable to the national director of the Division of Home Missions.

g. National home missionaries. National home missionaries shall be appointed by the Home Missions Board with the approval of their home districts and the districts 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.

h. Home missions policies. 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. Chaplaincy Department

a. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition and sphere of authority.* The Chaplaincy Department shall function under a Commission on Chaplains which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Home Missions, a representative of the military chaplaincy, and a representative of the industrial and institutional chaplaincy, one of whom shall be the coordinator of the Chaplaincy Department, and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two active-duty military chaplains, two institutional chaplains (one prison chaplain and one hospital chaplain), and two members at large.

(2) *Terms of office.* The term of office for the members of the commission shall be 2 years. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Coordinator.* There shall be a Chaplaincy Department coordinator appointed by the Executive Presbytery who may also serve as the representative of Military Personnel Ministries or representative of the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy.

b. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy

(1) *National representative.* The Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy (except Veteran's Administration Chaplaincy) shall be under the direction of a national representative.

(2) *Sphere of responsibility.* The ministry of this section will concern itself with the work of chaplains (except VAH Chaplaincy) in industries and institutions.

(3) *Functions.* The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, criteria for the appointment of workers, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

c. Military Chaplaincy. The basic functions of the Military Chaplaincy shall include:

(1) Responsibility for processing applications for candidates for

the military chaplaincy and extending ecclesiastical approval and endorsement and appointing contact pastors for each of the active military bases in the United States.

(2) Responsibility for receiving support from various chaplains for the operation of the section of the military chaplaincy as well as offerings designated for this ministry.

(3) Responsibility for seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and to encourage them in entering open doors of ministry.

(4) Work among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.

(5) Work among service personnel shall be known as Military Personnel Ministries. It shall be understood that there shall be a proper liaison between the Military Personnel Ministries work and that which is related to the service personnel's ministry overseas under the auspices of the Division of Foreign Missions.

Section 6. Support

Financial assistance in meeting the operating expense of the Division of Home Missions shall be provided from:

a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan offerings (see Article XXII. World Missions Plan).

b. Offerings designated for office expense. Churches which do not contribute under the World Missions Plan should designate a portion of their offering for home missions office expense.

c. Fifty percent of the tithes of all nationally appointed and/or approved home missions workers.

d. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

e. Five percent of all funds for approved district, regional, or national home missions projects.

ARTICLE XVII. DIVISION OF PUBLICATION

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Responsibilities. 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. Agency to fulfill church's mission. 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. National director. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

b. Departments. The division shall consist of the Marketing and Distribution Department and the Production Department, which shall be supervised by a manager of each selected by the Executive Presbytery.

c. Board of Publication. There shall be a Board of Publication 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 Publication 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. Composition of board. The Board of Publication 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 Publication shall meet monthly. It shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

e. Committees. 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 Publication. All committee decisions shall be reported to the Board of Publication for approval and authorization. They shall be amenable to the Board of Publication.

f. Amenability. 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. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Division of the Treasury which shall have general oversight of the Finance Department, the Stewardship Department, the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department, the Church Loan Department, the Audit Department, and the Benevolences Department.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the division shall be to have the oversight and responsibility of safeguarding, supervising, and investing the finances of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and to oversee its benevolences ministries.

c. Executive director. The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the division.

d. Amenability. 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. Finance Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Functions.* There shall be a Finance Department which shall have the functions usual and ordinary to a Finance Department, and shall include the processing of mail.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

(2) *Executive Finance Committee.* The Board of Administration shall constitute the Executive Finance Committee.

(3) *Committee on Finance.* There shall be a Committee on Finance, consisting of seven men from the constituency on the field, 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.

The terms shall be for 3 years and so arranged that two shall be elected in each of successive years and three in the third successive year.

(4) *Investment Committee.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a qualified Investment Committee of no less than four members to approve and make all decisions in regard to the investing, safeguarding, and buying and selling of all investments. This committee shall meet regularly and prepare written detailed minutes. Each and every decision to buy or sell any assets for which the department is responsible shall be signed by no less than three members on a numbered form prepared to record the authorization. These forms shall be kept in a numerical sequence file for review by all controlling and reviewing bodies and auditors. The Investment Committee is hereby charged with the prudent man rule in making its decisions.

c. Support of headquarters

(1) *From ministers.* 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) per month from their tithes, or as an offering, or through their influence. Licensed ministers should contribute two dollars (\$2) 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:

- (a) Collectively, through district publications;
- (b) Individually, through personal letters; or
- (c) 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.

(2) *From assemblies.* 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 2. Stewardship Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibility.* There shall be a Stewardship Department which shall be responsible for promoting Bible-based stewardship among our churches and membership.

(2) *Functions.* The functions of this department shall be:

(a) *Provide stewardship materials.* To prepare and provide, as needed, materials that stress Biblical concepts of the stewardship of life, time, testimony, talent, and treasure;

(b) *Encourage support and provide reports.* To encourage faithful support of World Ministries Giving and to provide periodic reports to districts and churches on World Ministries Giving;

(c) *Encourage scriptural methods of support.* To encourage scriptural methods of financial support for local assemblies, district councils, and the administrative offices of the General Council.

(3) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Stewardship Committee.* There shall be a Stewardship Committee which shall give counsel for the operation of the department. The committee shall be composed of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, who shall serve as its chairman; the secretary of the Stewardship Department; and three others from the field at large, appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term. The committee shall meet annually.

c. World Ministries Giving

(1) *Participation.* 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.

(2) *Combined report.* 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.

(3) *Credit.* World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Divisions of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education (including educational institutions), and Church Ministries (including Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Sunday School, and Youth Departments), Radio and TV, the executive and Spiritual Life-Evangelism offices, Benevolences Department, and other General Council, regional, and district sponsored or approved projects. It is understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Section 3. Deferred Giving and Trusts Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibility and scope.* There shall be a Deferred Giving and Trusts Department which shall have the responsibility of developing, promoting, and administering all areas of deferred giving, including but not limited to all types of trust funds, wills, estates, annuities, unitrusts, annuity trusts, life income contracts, pooled income funds, remainder trusts, life ownership of property, remainderman agreements, life insurance agreements, and any other legal, ethical, and proven programs.

(2) *Amenability.* The Deferred Giving and Trusts Department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Title and signatories.* The title and authority of any legal instrument shall be in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Those officers who are designated and authorized to sign all documents for that body shall be authorized to act in the same capacity for the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.

(4) *Control.* These bylaws shall govern the entire authority, control, and operation of the department.

(5) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

(1) Board of trustees

(a) *Authorization.* The Deferred Giving and Trusts Department shall be under the supervision of a board of trustees consisting of not less than five members.

(b) *Amenability.* The board of trustees shall be appointed by and responsible to the Executive Presbytery.

(c) *Qualifications and terms of office.* The trustees shall be qualified, reputable, and knowledgeable persons and shall serve for 3-year terms beginning on a staggered basis of 1, 2, and 3 years. A majority of trustees shall not be members of the headquarters staff.

(d) *Meetings and responsibilities.* The board shall meet not less than once each 3 months and shall review all actions of the deferred giving and trusts administration for the prior period. It shall review and give guidance in regard to investments, instruments, documents, financial reports, and internal controls, and keep detailed minutes of each meeting.

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be the business administrator and shall be in charge of all activities, including the office, files, safeguarding of assets, and the administration of all documents and assets in accordance with each document.

(3) Administrative Committee

(a) *Composition and responsibility.* The board of trustees shall appoint three qualified personnel to function as the administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department in charge of the day-to-day operations. The administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department shall always act under the prudent man rule in its conduct. The members of the administrative committee shall be the department secretary and two other members from headquarters personnel.

(b) *Amenability.* The administrative committee shall be responsible to the General Council Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and to its own board of trustees.

(4) *Director of field services.* There shall be a director of field services who shall be in charge of field representation, public relations, and shall assist in estate planning such as wills, trust instruments, annuity agreements, and any other authorized programs of deferred giving.

(5) *Accountant.* A qualified accountant shall be in charge of all record keeping, general and detailed books of account to reflect all activities of each document, as well as all activities by classes of

trusts, gifts, annuities, unitrusts, and all other categories for proper accounting records. Each trust or each instrument should identify in each file where the funds are invested and their earnings, and the disposition when closed. The accountant shall develop a system of internal controls with checks and balances that will conform to sound and generally accepted auditing standards.

(6) *Investment Committee.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a qualified, experienced, and trained Investment Committee of no less than four members to approve and make all decisions in regard to the investing, safeguarding, and buying and selling of all investments. This committee will meet regularly and prepare written, detailed minutes. Each and every decision to buy or sell any assets of the department shall be signed by no less than three members on a numbered form prepared to record the authorization. These forms shall be kept in a numerical sequence file for review by all controlling and reviewing bodies and auditors. The Investment Committee is hereby charged with the prudent man rule in making its decisions.

(7) *Annual review.* The General Council Committee on Finance shall review the operations of this department each year.

(8) *Undesignated assets.* Upon the receipt of any assets not specifically designated by the donor, the General Council Board of Administration shall give written authorization for the sale of or other disposition by the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.

(9) *Authorization for distribution.* When assets are freed from all contingencies they shall be approved for distribution to the particular ministry, fund, division, charity, or other parties as specified by the instrument providing the assets. The Executive Presbytery shall give final approval for the distribution of all funds designated to the General Council or any of its affiliates and shall have the authority to designate and distribute undesignated funds.

Section 4. Church Loan Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Function.* There shall be a Church Loan Department which shall provide loans and assist in obtaining financing for churches that need such assistance.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall serve as the church loan officer.

(3) *Church Loan Committee.* There shall be a Church Loan Committee which shall act upon all loan applications. The committee shall consist of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, who shall serve as its chairman, the secretary of the department, and two other persons appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term.

Section 5. Audit Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Function.* There shall be an Audit Department which shall conduct independent protective and constructive audits and review effectiveness of controls, financial records, and operations.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Internal auditor.* There shall be an internal auditor who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be under the supervision of the general treasurer and shall be directly accountable to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Responsibility.* The internal auditor basically serves management by measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of controls. His work is complementary to the independent auditor, using a similar approach but a different application of auditing techniques, independence, reporting, and interests served.

c. *Annual audit.* There shall be an annual audit of the financial records of The General Council of the Assemblies of God by an independent auditor, prepared in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards.

Section 6. Benevolences Department

a. *Authorization and purpose.* There shall be a Benevolences Department 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.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Administrative Committee.* There shall be a Benevolences Committee to administer the department. It shall consist of the general treasurer, who shall serve as chairman, the secretary of the department, and three other persons appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term.

(4) *Amenability.* The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. *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 Benevolences Department in its monthly budget.

d. *Aged Ministers Assistance.* Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers (the term includes ordained 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 bases:

(1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a widow of a minister.

(3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

(4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* 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.

(5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officary.

e. *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 appointed 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.

f. *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 Benevolences Department. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by the department.

ARTICLE XIX. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Miscellaneous Institutions

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

b. *Missionary schools on missions fields.* 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

a. *Authorization and purpose.* 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.

b. *Board of Directors.* 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.

c. *Amenability.* 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

a. *Authorization and purpose.* 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.

b. *Board of Directors.* The execution of policy and the administration

tion of the college may be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. **Amenability.** 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 4. Assemblies of God Graduate School

a. **Authorization and purpose.** The Assemblies of God Graduate School, a graduate school of theology and missions, providing advanced training beyond the baccalaureate level for ministers, missionaries, evangelists, and other 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 Assemblies of God Graduate School is forever bound to give Christ preeminence in all things and is bound to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and standards as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. **Board of Directors.** The execution of policy and the administration of the Graduate School shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. **Amenability.** The Graduate School 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 Assemblies of God Graduate School.

ARTICLE XX. 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 XXI. 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. The board 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 XXII. WORLD MISSIONS PLAN

Section 1. World Missions Offerings

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

- 70 percent foreign missions
- 5 percent foreign missions office expense
- 5 percent national home missions
- 20 percent district home missions

Section 2. Speed-the-Light Offerings

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

- 72 percent foreign missions and 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 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 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.

ARTICLE XXIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer
4. Departmental reports

5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

All business sessions of the General Council shall commence with prayer.

ARTICLE XXIV. 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 XXV. 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.