

MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL COUNCIL

Baltimore, Maryland, August 16-21, 1979

MINUTES

of the

Thirty-Eighth 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)

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, Chairman	
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

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FOREWORD

The Thirty-eighth General Council, which convened in Baltimore, Maryland, August 16-21, 1979, was the occasion for celebration of the 65th anniversary of the founding of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 2-12, 1914. The anniversary vesper service was on Sunday evening, August 19, with Paul Yonggi Cho of Seoul, Korea, speaking on the theme, "Together . . . in Thanksgiving." Also featured were the Blackwood Brothers quartet and a multimedia historical review of the Movement which included a challenge for the future.

The keynote message on "Together . . . in Mission" was given by General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman on Thursday evening, August 16. Different aspects of the theme "Together" were emphasized throughout by the other speakers as indicated: Alan Brewster—" . . . in Service"; Jimmy Swaggart—" . . . in Proclamation"; Aimee Cortese—" . . . in Christ"; Almom Bartholomew—" . . . in Breaking Bread"; James Hamill—" . . . in Doctrine"; Dan Betzer—" . . . in Hope." Charles Colson spoke to 4,000 people at the prayer breakfast on Saturday morning on the theme "Together . . . in Prayer for Our Nation." The morning Hour of Prayer on Friday and Monday was led by Executive Presbyter Dwight H. McLaughlin. The song leaders throughout the council were Clifford King of Memphis, Tennessee, and Doyle Patterson of Macomb, Illinois. Special music throughout the council was superb.

The business sessions were preceded by introductions of the executive presbyters, retired executive officers who were present, and headquarters personnel. Greetings were also read from retired executive officers unable to be present. Fraternal delegates were introduced at this time and later on as their presence was made known. Included among these were a representative of the Mayor of the City of Baltimore; Justus du Plessis, general secretary of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa; Dr. Paul Benjamin, executive coordinator for the American Festival of Evangelism to be held in Kansas City, July 23-30, 1981; Ben Armstrong, executive director of National Religious Broadcasters; and Robert Taitinger, general superintendent, and Charles Yates, general secretary, of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Following the reports of the executive officers, a matter of unfinished business from the 1977 General Council, "Churches—

Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification," was first taken care of, after which business was interspersed with elections. The incumbents in the offices of assistant general superintendent, general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, and all eight area executive presbyters were returned to office.

For your easy reference we present herewith the actions taken which affected the General Council Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification—Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI
2. Youth Alive Publication—Bylaws Article XIII, Section 5.c.
3. General Treasurer, Executive Director of Division—Bylaws Article III, Section 4.a.
4. Preaching Requirements for Licensed Ministers—Bylaws Article VII, Section 3.b. (1)
5. Commission on Doctrinal Purity—Bylaws Article VIII, A, Section 1
6. Discipline—Article IX, A, Section 9.d. and B, Section 1
7. Guidelines for Geographical and Foreign Language Districts in Evangelism—Bylaws Article V, Section 4.c.
8. Sunday School Standard—Bylaws Article XIII, Section 3.d.(1)(b)
9. Support of National Home Missions Workers and Industrial and Institutional Chaplains—Bylaws Article VII, Section 9.d. and Bylaws Article XVI, Section 6.c. and d.
10. Support of Headquarters—Bylaws Article XVIII, Section 1.c.
11. Eligibility for Rehabilitation—Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 9.d.
12. World Ministries Giving—Bylaws Article XVIII, Section 2.c. (3)
13. Division of Home Missions—Bylaws Article XVI (in entirety except for part of Section 6)
14. A resolution to authorize the Executive Presbytery to edit the constitution and bylaws without changing intent or meaning.

In addition to the above actions affecting the constitution and bylaws there was a very important report from the Spiritual Life Committee. Other resolutions named Russell Williams and Lyle Curtis to be honorary general presbyters. Resolutions of appreciation for various courtesies and services were also adopted. At the conclusion of the council sessions a resolution unanimously passed declaring the objective to make the 1980s a Decade of Church Growth. As the Council ended there was a general feeling that in addition to its being the best attended, with 11,660 registered, it was one of the best in the spirit of unity and blessing which prevailed.

A list of the position papers that are available is included in the

back of this book. By action of the Thirty-eighth General Council, this book of Minutes and Revised Constitution and Bylaws, together with the ministers and church directories, is being sent free of charge to all General Council ordained and licensed ministers.

JOSEPH R. FLOWER
GENERAL SECRETARY

MINUTES OF
THE THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED
AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
AUGUST 16-21, 1979

The Thirty-eighth General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Civic Center, Baltimore, Maryland, Thursday, August 16, at 2 p.m. General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman led in prayer and the assembled delegates and visitors were led in singing "We Have Gathered in This Place To Worship Him."

Mrs. Margot Zilch, pastor's wife of First Assembly of God, Battle Creek, Michigan, was pianist, and Mrs. Beverly Lunsford, pastor's wife of First Assembly of God, Colorado Springs, Colorado, was organist for the afternoon meeting.

Song leaders for the General Council were introduced as follows: Clifford King of Raleigh Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee, and Doyle Patterson of the Assembly of God in Macomb, Illinois.

Brother King led in singing "To God Be the Glory." General Secretary Joseph R. Flower led in prayer asking God's blessing for the needs represented by a show of hands and upon the entire General Council, and that the Civic Center might become a sanctuary until the concluding service.

**Appreciation to Potomac District Council
and Baltimore, Maryland**

Brother Zimmerman spoke of the privilege of being in the Potomac District and gave appreciation to Wallace P. Odum, former district superintendent who had recently taken a pastorate in Windsor, North Carolina. Howard Spruill, the newly elected Potomac District superintendent, expressed thanks for the opportunity to host the General Council.

The general superintendent mentioned the marvelous cooperation received from Mayor William Donald Schaefer of the City of Baltimore and from the convention and housing bureaus, hotels, and restaurants.

Introduction of Executive Presbytery

The chairman introduced the Executive Presbytery as follows: 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 E. Lowenberg, D. H. McLaughlin, R. D. E. Smith, and Roy H. Wead.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

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

The following retired executive presbyters were unable to be present because of age and poor health: Gayle F. Lewis, former general superintendent; Noel Perkin, former secretary of Foreign Missions, Ernest S. Williams, former general superintendent; and A. A. Wilson, former executive presbyter.

Introduction of Headquarters Personnel

The directors and administrators of the divisions and other major areas of the national headquarters offices were introduced individually and department heads and other employees present were acknowledged. Richard Hammar, legal counselor who has joined the headquarters staff during the past year, was also introduced.

Offering

General Treasurer Raymond H. Hudson, stating that the budget for the General Council was \$181,000, made an appeal for a good response to the offering and asked God's blessing upon it. Bud Tutmarc, minister of music at Calvary Temple, Seattle, Washington, played the Hawaiian guitar for the offertory.

Fraternal Delegates

Assistant General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson presented courtesy packets to the following fraternal delegates as they were introduced by the general superintendent: Fred Lessten, special secretary for Church Relations, American Bible Society; Jerome Walden, general overseer for the Church of God Mountain Assembly, Inc.; Howard Clark, Eastern District supervisor, representing Rolf McPherson, of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Robert W. Taitinger, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; Justus du Plessis, general secretary of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa; Carmine Saginario, general superintendent of the Christian Church of North America; Chester H. Heath, general superintendent of the Free Gospel Church; and Robert Dugan, of the Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., for

the National Association of Evangelicals.

Each delegate gave appropriate greetings, and General Superintendent Robert W. Taitinger extended an invitation to the 12th Pentecostal World Conference to convene in Vancouver, British Columbia, October 2-7, 1979.

Committees

The chairman referred to the program booklet for the listing of committees serving the General Council, and read the names of the various national and local chairmen. The complete list is as follows:

General Council Committees

Budget

Raymond H. Hudson, chairman; Philip Bongiorno, Charles H. Cookman, Howard V. Spruill, John Paproski, Irvin G. Steiding

Music

Lawrence B. Larsen, chairman; Paul Ferrin, Thomas Hollingsworth, Miriam Reynolds, Ernest W. White

Parliamentary

Charles W. Crank, chairman; Joseph Gerhart, Jesse K. Moon

Resolutions

Bartlett Peterson, chairman; Almon M. Bartholomew, Robert L. Brandt, Frank Cole, Dennis Davis, James Hamill, Gene Jackson, Lloyd Jorgenson, Clarence Lambert, Clare G. Rose, Joseph Santiago, William Vickery

Roster

James E. Griggs, chairman; Thomas R. Brubaker, Jr., Clifford L. Burroughs, Pedro L. Cruz, Derwood Dubose, George Elrod, Ralph E. Fowler, Dean Gaylen, Paul Goodman, W. Glenn Mangrum, Esther Palmer, George Raduana, Pedro Rosario, Robert D. Ross, Larry M. Savage, Harold E. Scott, Eugene D. Speich, Edmund L. Tedeschi, Jr., David E. Thompson, Richard Tufte, Wesley Vagle

Spiritual Life

R. D. E. Smith, chairman; Charles Anderson, James O. Bakker, Earl Banning, Edward Berkey, Alan S. Brewster, Marvin Gorman, Wesley R. Hurst, Mitchell C. Johnson, Jr., Thomas F. Reid, Karl Strader, John W. Thompson, Thomas F. Zimmerman; C. W. Denton, resource person

Tellers

William H. Douglas, chairman; Joseph R. Hardt, captain; Omer V. Kallevig, captain; L. I. LaMance, captain; Edward C. Summerfield, captain; F. Nolan Ball, Billy P. Bell, M. Wayne Benson, Donald V. Bowman, Finis E. Bradshaw, Tommy Carpenter, Jack E. Carrier, Manuel A. Cordero, H. Daniel Cornelius, Larry D. Cox, Cecil Culbreth, Al Davis, David E. Davis, Walter L. Davis, Thomas A. Fegler, Everitt M. Fjordbak, John H. Fuiten, R. Kenneth George, John L. Gifford, Thomas Gotcher, Paul J. Graban, Orville L. Grace, Larry E. Hale, Zane A. Haun, M. Russell Herndon, Leslie L. King, Thomas D. Lakey, William C. Land, Edgar R. Lee, David A. Matheny, Ralph Miller, David B. Owen, John M. Palmer, Duane C. Palser, Joel A. Pavia, Ronald E. Piedmonte, Larry B. Pyle, Jesse Ray, Paul W. Savage, Lester Shockley, Keith Striley, Clarence V. Thomas, Harold Thompson, Harlan L. Wartenbee, Norman E. Wenig, Robert W. Wenig, Leon Wiggins, Gerald E. Wilson, Tommy D. Witt

Operational Committees

Arrangements

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

Coordinators

C. W. Denton, national; John Ohlin, assistant; Howard V. Spruill, local

Communications Supervisor

Lee Shultz

Communion Arrangements

Stan Michael, chairman

Equipment

Arlyn Pember, national chairman; Ernie Rifenberg; Donald S. Greene, local chairman

Exhibits

Tom Sanders, national chairman, David Johnston, J. B. Goggin, local chairman

Housing and Hospitality

John Ohlin, national coordinator; Elmer Lee Chrystal, local chairman

Photo

Gwen Jones, chairman; Sylvia Lee

Platform

Mel DeVries, chairman and coordinator; David Torgerson, assistant platform coordinator; Lawrence B. Larsen, Stan Michael, Melvin Snyder, Don Upton

Platform Monitors

Silas Gaither, Richard Hammar

Printed Materials

Carol A. Ball, chairman; Richard Champion, Sylvia Lee

Program

C. W. Denton, chairman; Richard Champion, Mel DeVries, Gwen Jones, John Ohlin, Lee Shultz, Robert H. Spence, Hardy W. Steinberg, Juleen Turnage

Publicity

Juleen Turnage, national chairman; R. C. Cunningham, Mel Surface; Earl Baldwin, local chairman

Registration

Thom Loven, chairman; Jimmy V. Dunn, Bill Eastlake

Reports

Lee Shultz, chairman; Bill Eastlake, Charles Ford, Silas Gaither, Gwen Jones, Juleen Turnage

Resolutions and Reports Expediter

Hardy W. Steinberg

Tellers Liaison

T. E. Gannon

Transportation Expediter

Lamar Headley

Ushers

Glenn Renick, Jr., national chairman; Evan Paul; Samuel D. Beiler, Jr., local chairman; Levi Rice, local assistant chairman

Youth and Children's Activities

Edith Denton, national child care chairman; Jane Blevins, local child

care chairman; Larry Summers, national children's activities chairman; Betty Goggin, local children's activities chairman; H. H. (Spud) DeMent, national youth activities chairman; Terry Carter; William E. Davis, local youth activities chairman

Billboard Campaign

Brother Zimmerman mentioned the new billboard campaign introduced on 30 billboards throughout the Baltimore area: "God forgives. Let Him. With love—the Assemblies of God." He encouraged delegates to let their lights shine as they circulate throughout the city.

Songleader Clifford King led in singing the chorus "This Is the Day That the Lord Hath Made," following which the general superintendent officially called the General Council session to order at 3:35 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

James E. Griggs, chairman of the Roster Committee, was introduced and gave the first report of the Roster Committee as of 1 p.m. Thursday, as follows:

Ordained ministers	922	
Delegates	263	
Voting constituency		1,185
Licensed ministers	102	
Visitors	989	
Nonvoting constituency	1,091	
Total	2,276	

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Telegrams of Greeting

The chairman noted that Arthur Berg had served faithfully for 20 years as chairman of the Roster Committee, assisted by his wife Anna. "He is now suffering considerably in his body and is unable to be present. The Bergs were both ordained to the ministry by the Assemblies of God 60 years ago on August 12."

A motion prevailed to send a telegram from this General Council expressing congratulations and appreciation to Arthur and Anna Berg.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to send telegrams to the retired executive presbyters who were mentioned earlier who could not attend this General Council.

The chairman stated that V. G. Greisen, who served many years as Kansas District superintendent and later was associated with the Division of Foreign Missions as field secretary for Europe, will be celebrating his 85th birthday on August 22, 1979.

A motion prevailed that a telegram be sent to Brother Greisen on the occasion of his birthday.

General Superintendent's Report

The general superintendent asked G. Raymond Carlson to take the chair. The assistant general superintendent then introduced Thomas F. Zimmerman who presented the report of the general superintendent as printed in the *1977-79 Biennial Report* booklet.

During the reading of the report he called attention to the fact that Ralph Durham, who served as administrator of Maranatha Village for 5 years, has recently retired. He announced that God has been gracious in supplying Maranatha Village with another qualified administrator, Charles Davis.

The temporary chairman expressed thanks for the excellent report presented by the general superintendent. It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report with appreciation.

G. Raymond Carlson expressed thanks to all who prayed for our general superintendent a year ago. He spoke of the heavy load of responsibility attending the office and called for the executive presbyters to gather around Thomas F. Zimmerman in prayer and thanksgiving, and requested G. W. Hardcastle, Sr., to lead in prayer.

The chair was then returned to the general superintendent.

General Secretary's Report

The chairman asked Joseph R. Flower to give his report as printed in the *1977-79 Biennial Report* booklet.

In referring to the information under the heading "Suspended and Under Rehabilitation," he stated, "In recent years we have been concerned about salvaging ministers who have erred, and this is still our concern."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report be received with appreciation.

General Treasurer's Report

The chairman requested Raymond H. Hudson to present the general treasurer's report as printed in the *1977-79 Biennial Report* booklet.

A motion prevailed to receive the report with thanksgiving.

Messages of Greeting

The general secretary read a telegram of greeting from A. S. Bursey, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and a letter from Billy A. Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals.

A motion prevailed to respond to the telegram from the Pentecostal

Assemblies of Newfoundland expressing our greetings.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

The chairman asked the delegates to read the divisional and departmental reports contained in the 1977-79 *Biennial Report* booklet stating that at an appropriate time opportunity would be given to receive them without a public reading.

Audit Report

The delegates were instructed to study the *Audit Report* which would become the first order of business Friday morning.

Recess

The Thursday afternoon meeting was recessed at 4:35 p.m. with a prayer of dismissal by R. J. Carlson, former Northwest District superintendent, and the singing of the Doxology.

THURSDAY EVENING—KEYNOTE RALLY

The keynote message was brought by Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent. Following the presentation of the colors by the Navy Color Guard, William Harness of Torrance, California, sang the national anthem. Roscoe Haring, representative of Baltimore's mayor, welcomed the General Council to Baltimore. Other special music for the rally was provided by Dean and Mary Brown of West Memphis, Arkansas; Paul Cantelon of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; and Gloria Elliott of Houston, Texas.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 17

The Friday morning meeting convened at 8:45. J. Foy Johnson, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, presided over the devotional period. Cliff King led in the singing of several choruses: "He Is Lord," "Let's Just Praise the Lord," "Praise the Lord, O My Soul," and "Hallelujah." Lee Shultz, national director of the Division of Communications, read John 4:34-38 and Luke 10:2, followed with prayer led by R. D. E. Smith, executive presbyter from the Northeast Area. Special music was presented by Bill Wagner of Rockford, Tennessee; Joy Thornton from San Jose, California, played a piano solo for the offertory. Appreciation was expressed to her and to Don Stratton, minister of music at Stone Church, Chicago, Illinois, for their ministry at the piano and organ.

Alan Brewster, pastor of Suncoast Cathedral, St. Petersburg, Florida, brought the morning Bible Hour message on the theme, "Together in Service," using 2 Corinthians 6:1 as his text. It was

noted that coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and serving together is success. He noted that many Christians know how to give themselves to the Lord, but do not know how to give themselves to their community. He called the body to the servant's role which Jesus took and to an awareness of the presence of God which is the enabling power and strength for any task.

The general superintendent called the business session to order at 10 a.m. Dr. Bruce Motter from Cleveland, Ohio, led in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

James Griggs presented the following report as of 9:30 a.m.:

Ordained ministers	1,970
Delegates	748
Voting constituency	2,718
Licensed ministers	212
Visitors	2,113
Nonvoting constituency	2,325
Total	5,043

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Parliamentary Committee Recognized

The chairman recognized the members of the Parliamentary Committee, who were seated on the platform: Charles Crank, chairman, superintendent of the Indiana District; Joseph L. Gerhart, honorary general presbyter and former superintendent of the Northern California-Nevada District; and Jesse Moon, educator and evangelist.

Audit Report

The general treasurer presented the financial report for the biennium, April 1, 1977, through March 31, 1979, as contained in the *Audit Report*. It was noted that the report covers only those funds that come directly to headquarters and are accounted for there.

The chairman thanked Brother Hudson for the clear, concise manner in which he presented the report, noting that the financial statement covers what in the commercial world would be about 40 different companies.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the financial report as contained in the audit and highlighted by the general treasurer be accepted, with the understanding that if questions arise during the council it would be appropriate to consider them.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

The chairman asked if there were any questions or comments

concerning the Divisional and Departmental Reports, noting that the 1977-79 Biennial Report booklet gives a fine overview of Assemblies of God activities.

A motion prevailed to accept the reports as printed.

Guidelines for Debate

The chairman indicated that the microphone on the chairman's table would be used exclusively by the chair and that as far as possible a neutral position would be observed. The desk microphone will be used by those making reports, and the floor microphones would be used by those wishing to participate in debate, including those seated on the platform.

Report of Committee To Study Churches— Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification

An item of unfinished business from the 1977 General Council concerning Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification had been referred to a further study committee. Lowell Ashbrook, chairman, read the report of the committee. It was noted that the committee met on two occasions. It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive the report with thanks to the committee for their faithful labors.

1980 Visual Presentation

A special visual presentation announced the annual emphases for the early 1980s. The themes for the individual years are:

- 1980—The Church in Action
- 1981—Building Strong Families
- 1982—Live in the Light
- 1983—Reach Out in Love
- 1984—Living to God

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification (continued)

It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted, and the floor was opened for discussion.

A question was raised concerning the lack of mention of churches which are mothered, and clarification was requested as to who would have jurisdiction over such a church. It was felt that such a church would be an outreach of the mother church and under its jurisdiction until the time it became established and came under district supervision.

A question was raised concerning lines 12-14, page 2, which would seem to permit a church to establish its own standards for membership, notwithstanding the position of the district or General Council.

It was felt that there should be some uniformity in standards for membership in Assemblies of God churches. It was moved and seconded to amend lines 12-14, page 2, to read: "adopt a standard of membership determined by the local assembly in agreement with the district council." It was noted that this was the present constitutional provision and not a change.

The motion to amend was voted on by a show of hands and was declared lost.

It was moved and seconded that lines 4 through 15, page 9, be amended to read: "In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the district officer to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officer the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church."

Much discussion followed. A point of order was raised questioning the necessity of a two-thirds vote in amending the report. It was the chairman's opinion that this was true, wherever it would affect the constitution.

The motion to amend lines 4-15, page 9, was carried.

A privileged motion was made to intersperse elections with the order of business beginning with the afternoon session. The chairman ruled that since the General Council was scheduled until Tuesday noon, it would be wise to continue action on unfinished business, after which voting could be interspersed with business. The chair was sustained in this ruling by a show of hands.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Alvin Sprecher, German District superintendent.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—August 17

Doyle Patterson led in singing "He Lives" and "I Love Him" after which the general superintendent requested prayer for Roy Johnson of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, who had suffered a stroke, and for Jules Ballas, one of our chaplains who had a leg amputated because of a malignancy. Ralph Durham led in prayer for these requests.

I. Burton Pierce, secretary-treasurer of the Potomac District, made the offering appeal. Gerald Fortunato and his wife, of Calvary Assembly of God, Wyncote, Pennsylvania, at the organ and piano respectively, presented an arrangement of "Because He Lives" as an offertory. The chair introduced Frank Fortunato, who for many years was the general overseer of the Christian Church of North America.

Dr. Joseph Nicholson, head of the Fine Arts Department at Evangel College, led in prayer for the afternoon business session which was called to order at 2:20.

Roster Committee Report

James E. Griggs presented the third report of the Roster Committee as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,308	
Delegates	843	
Voting constituency		3,151
Licensed ministers	244	
Visitors	2,529	
Nonvoting constituency		2,773
Total		5,924

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification (continued)

The chairman stated that an amendment to the report had been adopted in the morning business meeting and that the full report as amended was before the body for further discussion.

A motion prevailed to amend page 7 by deleting the sentence beginning on line 2 and substituting the following: "Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding persons who seek to gain entrance to teach or minister. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined."

It was moved and seconded that the report be amended on page 8, line 23, by substitution so it would read "40 percent" instead of "20 percent."

In response to a question Lowell Ashbrook, chairman of the committee, stated this section was intended to mean the total voting membership, not just those who were present at the meeting. It was indicated then that the percentage should be lowered rather than raised inasmuch as the committee's intent was to protect the minority.

The motion to amend was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend the report by adding a new paragraph d. under Section 4, and relettering the succeeding paragraphs accordingly, the new paragraph to read as follows:

d. When an assembly by a two-thirds vote, according to its constitution, decides to affiliate with the Assemblies of God or withdraw its affiliation from the Assemblies of God, that decision shall be respected, and in the case of withdrawal, the district council

shall not circumvent that decision by appealing to civil courts which sometimes reverse that decision when only one member of the said congregation wishes to remain with the denomination.

The discussion which followed pointed up the fact that the circumstances are different when an established church voluntarily joins our Fellowship and then perhaps wishes to withdraw after a year or two than when the church has been brought into existence by the Assemblies of God, possibly years earlier by some of our founding fathers.

A motion prevailed to amend the amendment by deleting the words "which sometimes reverse that decision when only one member of the said congregation wishes to remain with the denomination," inasmuch as this is a commentary.

A motion for the previous question prevailed.

The chairman indicated that the proposed amendment as amended was before the body for its consideration. The originator of the motion rose to a point of order, stating he felt his amendment was too precious and significant to risk the possibility of a negative vote and requested to withdraw the amendment. The chairman ruled that it was too late for such a request inasmuch as action was already taken on the motion to amend the proposed amendment.

By a show of hands the proposed amendment as amended was lost.

In response to a question to clarify statements made during discussion concerning taking a matter to the civil courts, the chairman stated that each church situation would have to be evaluated on its own merits.

Introduction of Fraternal Delegate

The general superintendent introduced Dr. Paul Benjamin, who has been executive director of the Center of Research for Church Growth, Washington, D.C., and who recently accepted an invitation to become executive coordinator for the American Festival of Evangelism. Dr. Benjamin expressed appreciation for our general superintendent, cited some significant statistics concerning the need for a concerted evangelistic thrust in America, and encouraged individual participation by Assemblies of God district leaders, pastors, and churches when the American Festival of Evangelism convenes July 23-30, 1981, in Kansas City, Missouri.

A packet of materials was presented to Dr. Benjamin as an expression of appreciation to him as a fraternal delegate. The assembly sang the chorus "Let's Just Praise the Lord," after which Marvin Gorman of New Orleans, Louisiana, led in a prayer for God's blessing upon the plans being laid for the American Festival of Evangelism.

Privileged Motion

A motion prevailed to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, There are several recommendations in the Charismatic Resource Committee Report and the Spiritual Life Committee Report that are related; and

WHEREAS, Both of these reports, if adopted, will have great impact upon our entire Fellowship; be it

RESOLVED, That we set the time of 11 a.m. Saturday for the presentation of these reports.

Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships and Classification (continued)

The chairman stated that the report of the committee to study Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification, with its proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws, was before the body for a vote. He read the two amendments which had been adopted. By a show of hands, the chair ruled that the proposed report as twice amended carried by at least 89 percent, which would meet the requirements of a two-thirds vote for the constitutional amendments contained therein.

The report as amended and adopted follows:

The committee to study Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification was comprised of four laymen, five pastors, and two district officials (general presbyters, one of whom is also a pastor). The committee was appointed by the Executive Presbytery, in response to the request of the 37th General Council, and was instructed to continue the work begun by the previous committee on the subject of Churches—Sovereignty, Relationships, and Classification.

The committee understood its assignment to deal specifically with the matter of local church sovereignty and the meaning of General Council affiliation.

Basic to the committee's considerations was the awareness of God's evident blessing upon our Fellowship since its inception. The committee believes that, to a considerable degree, the historical concept of local church sovereignty has contributed positively to the growth and development of the Fellowship.

Therefore, the report of the committee reflects what it understands to be the historical view of the Fellowship on local church sovereignty and relationships and has sought only to clarify and strengthen that position.

The committee submits the following report:

Constitution Article XI. Local Assemblies

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council affiliated assembly is one which has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General

Council of the Assemblies of God.

a. Requirements for affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

(1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;

(2) Adopt a standard of membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself or by agreement with the district council;

(3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body;

(4) Adopt a constitution and bylaws compatible with those recommended by the district council;

(5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution and bylaws; and

(6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and/or a district council.

b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district councils. A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and district councils, and may send delegates to the General Council and district councils.

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated 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 it is affiliated with 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. A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council of 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 Affiliation if deemed necessary.

e. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated 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 Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated 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 council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of the district council constitution and bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

Section 3. World Ministries Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in the world ministries of the Assemblies of God and to plan for regular contributions for its support.

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 the 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 Report 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

Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding persons who seek to gain entrance to teach or minister. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. 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 unknown persons seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council

a. Nature. General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and conduct. (See proposed Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d, of the constitution.)

b. Relationship. "Cooperative fellowship" describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

c. Organizational assistance. The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor and/or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members.

d. Preservation of affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the district officer to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officer the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church.

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

When the membership of a General Council affiliated church falls below 20 active voting members, it shall seek the assistance of the district officary for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. If after 1 year the minimal number of 20 members is not attained the church shall revert to district affiliated status. The church shall remain in a district council affiliated status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a General Council affiliated church as provided for in Article XI, Section 1, of the constitution. 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.

**Election of Assistant
General Superintendent**

The general superintendent read from the constitution and bylaws the provisions set forth concerning the nomination and election of officers. He stated that the general superintendent had been elected 2 years ago for a 4-year term and thus the first order of elections would be for the office of the assistant general superintendent.

Ballots were distributed and the nominating ballot was cast for assistant general superintendent.

Roster Committee Report

A motion prevailed to receive the fourth report of the Roster Committee as of 4 p.m. Friday as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,333	
Delegates	856	
	<hr/>	
Voting constituency		3,189
Licensed ministers	249	
Visitors	2,568	
	<hr/>	
Nonvoting constituency		2,817
Total		6,006

Procedural Motion

A motion prevailed to the effect that should any officer receive more than a two-thirds vote on the nominating ballot, it would be declared an elective ballot.

Resolution 1. Youth Alive Publication

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 1 as follows:

WHEREAS, The official publication of the Youth Department, which is now designated as *Youth Alive* in Bylaws Article XIII, Section 5, paragraph "c," has been discontinued; be it

RESOLVED, That paragraph "c" of Article XIII, Section 5, which now reads:

"Official Publication. The official publication of the department shall be *Youth Alive!*" shall be deleted and further that present paragraph "d" shall become "c," "e" shall become "d," and "f" shall become "e."

A motion prevailed that Resolution 1 be adopted.

**Resolution 2. General Treasurer, Executive
Director of Division**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, Article XVIII, paragraph "c" of the General Council Bylaws defines the duties of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as the executive director of the Division of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws, "Duties of the General Treasurer," omits such definition; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That said Article III be amended by inserting a new paragraph to be known as "a," and which shall read: "The general

treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the Division of the Treasury"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraphs "a" through "e" shall be redesignated to become paragraphs "b" through "f."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2.

Resolution 3. Preaching Requirement for Licensed Ministers

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 3 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council in session in 1977 amended the requirements for maintaining active status by ordained ministers, requiring them to preach at least 15 times per year; and

WHEREAS, The requirements for licensed ministers needs to be brought into conformity; be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII. Ministry, Section 3, paragraph "b," subparagraph (1) of the bylaws be amended by changing the figure "20" to "15," so that the last sentence of subparagraph (1) shall read: "They shall preach at least 15 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3.

Resolution 4. Commission on Doctrinal Purity

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, Article III, paragraph "f," of the constitution specifically involves The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the approval or disapproval of scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct; and

WHEREAS, The potential for deviation from the Statement of Fundamental Truths is present within the Movement; and

WHEREAS, Careful attention should be given to the prevention of proliferation of unscriptural teachings in our Fellowship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this 38th General Council hereby authorizes the establishment of a permanent Commission on Doctrinal Purity, with said commission to be composed of recognized authorities in Biblical knowledge who shall be selected from the Fellowship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the aforesaid commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That said commission shall be appointed by the

Executive Presbytery and shall consist of 10 members representing, insofar as possible, the geographic area divisions of the Assemblies of God. At the time of making the first appointment of members to the commission, the Executive Presbytery shall appoint five members for 2 years and five members for 4 years, with the provision that thereafter all appointments shall be made for 4-year terms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such advisable; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VIII of the bylaws be amended by inserting the following as a new Section 1:
Section 1. Commission on Doctrinal Purity

a. Authorization and Purpose

A Commission on Doctrinal Purity shall be established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings. The commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery.

b. Appointments and terms of office

The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of 10 members representing, insofar as possible, the geographic area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in Biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be for 4 years.

c. Vacancies and Terminations

The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such action advisable. A decision to declare a vacancy and to fill such vacancy may be made at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery. And be it further

RESOLVED, That all of present Article VIII, as it now appears, shall be renumbered Section 2 and its various provisions shall be listed thereunder and appropriately designated by letters and numbers as may be needed.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:50 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and Donald Musgrove, Kansas District superintendent, dismissing in prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 17

The Friday evening service was under the direction of Richard W.

Dortch, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions, gave the Scripture reading, Psalm 96:1-4, 11-13. Steve Hurst, minister of music at First Assembly of God Munford, Tennessee, served at the piano and Paul Ferrin, minister of music at Bethel Assembly of God, San Jose, California, was at the organ. Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was the speaker for the service which had the theme "Together . . . in Proclamation." Music was provided by Pam Thum of Belleville, Michigan, and Dino Kartsonakis of Hollywood, California.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 18
General Council Prayer Breakfast

The General Council Prayer Breakfast was held in the new Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland, on Saturday, August 18, at 7 a.m. The theme for the breakfast was "Together . . . in Prayer for Our Nation." G. Raymond Carlson, assistant general superintendent, served as chairman. Special music was provided by Ken Carter of Memphis, Tennessee.

The speaker for the breakfast was Charles Colson from Washington, D.C. He shared what God is doing among prisoners through his ministry known as Prison Fellowship.

United singing of "The Lord's Prayer" was the benediction.

Saturday Morning Business

The business session opened with the singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Hallelujah" led by Doyle Patterson. Pianist and organist, respectively, were Lena Mae Leach of Mansfield, Ohio, and Esther Palmer, evangelist from Montgomery, Alabama. After a time of worship, Brother Zimmerman led in the singing of "He Is All I Need." Robert Cunningham, editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*, led in prayer for many needs which had been expressed by raised hands. R.D.E. Smith made the offering appeal, indicating that almost half the budget had been received. Lena Mae Leach played the offertory.

The general superintendent called the business session to order at 10:15 a.m. Clarence Lambert, new secretary for the New Church Evangelism Department of the Division of Home Missions, led in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the business to be transacted.

A privileged motion prevailed requesting that the order of the day which had been established for the presentation of the Spiritual Life Committee Report be moved from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., as the first order of business in the afternoon session.

Roster Committee Report

James Griggs, chairman of the Roster Committee, brought the fifth report as of 10 a.m., which was accepted as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,426
Delegates	883
Voting constituency	3,309
Licensed ministers	262
Visitors	2,993
Nonvoting constituency	3,255
Total	6,564

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

The chairman recognized William Douglas, chairman of the Tellers Committee, who reported results of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent as follows:

Ballots cast	1,107
Needed to elect	738
G. Raymond Carlson received	997

The chairman, recognizing that G. Raymond Carlson had received more than the two-thirds majority required, declared him reelected assistant general superintendent.

Brother Carlson responded by stating he was humbled by the graciousness of the Fellowship. He said he had found the Lord Jesus Christ as a boy in an Assemblies of God church and it has been his delight ever since to serve the Lord and to be involved in His work. Mrs. Carlson was requested to stand and be recognized also.

The following is a list of all those nominated: E. R. Anderson, Earl Banning, Almon Bartholomew, G. Raymond Carlson, Norman G. Carlson, R. J. Carlson, Richard Carlson, Charles Crank, N. D. Davidson, Richard Dortch, Joseph Flower, T. E. Gannon, J. Don George, Marvin Gorman, James Hamill, Lowell Harrup, Roy Harthern, Gene Hogan, Raymond Hudson, Gene Jackson, Melvin James, J. Foy Johnson, Clarence Lambert, Paul Lowenberg, Claude Qualls, Kermit Reneau, Howard Robinson, Herman Rohde, Robert Schmidgall, C. W. H. Scott, R. D. E. Smith, Everett Stenhouse, Glenn Strickland, William O. Vickery, Roy Wead, Bert Webb, T. F. Zimmerman.

Telegrams of Greeting

The general secretary read a telegram of greeting and assurance of prayers received from E. S. Williams, A. A. Wilson, Gayle F. Lewis, and Noel Perkin, retired officers and presbyters of the Assemblies of God, which had been received in response to telegrams sent to each of them by the General Council in session.

Brother Flower also read a telegram of greeting from Ray H. Hughes, general overseer of the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee. A motion prevailed for the general secretary to reciprocate with an acknowledgment.

Resolution 5. Bylaws Article IX. Discipline

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 5 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Credentials Committee senses need for a change in format for clarity, as well as clarification of the Right of Appeal, as such provisions now appear in Article IX, B, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has responded by making recommendations which it regards appropriate thereto; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article IX, Discipline, subheading B. TRIAL BY JURY, be amended by deleting present Section 1 in its entirety and substituting therefor the following to become Section 1:

Section 1. Right of Appeal and Authorization for a Trial

a. Filing of appeal. 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.

b. Record of proceedings. The district shall be expected to furnish a record of the proceedings leading up to the district action.

c. Remanding of case to district. If in the judgment of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the district presbytery for review and reconsideration.

d. Authorization for a trial. In the event there is no change of viewpoint by the district, a trial by jury may be authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee.

e. Denial of appeal.

(1) Forfeiture of right of appeal. 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.

(2) Insufficient grounds for appeal. The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to authorize a trial.

f. Surrender of credentials. The accused minister shall be required to surrender his current fellowship card, to be retained by the district until the case has been tried and judgment has been rendered. Refusal to surrender his creden-

tials shall be considered insubordination and may result in the placing of an additional charge against the minister.

g. Right of appeal to General Presbytery. A disciplined minister who has been denied a trial may appeal to the General Presbytery for the right. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 5 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend line 22 on page 8 of the resolutions booklet by deleting the words "has not" and inserting the words *may not have* in their place. The vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion to amend was declared lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 5 was carried.

Youth Alive Visual

A visual presentation from the Youth Department introduced the Youth Alive ministry to junior and senior high campuses, similar to the Chi Alpha ministry. Helps to organize such a ministry are available through the Youth Department.

Election of General Secretary

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee presented the report of the nominating ballot cast for general secretary as follows:

Votes cast	1,364
Needed to elect	910
Joseph R. Flower received	1,275

The chairman declared Joseph R. Flower reelected as general secretary, having received well above the two-thirds vote required.

Brother Flower expressed appreciation for this vote of confidence and pledged to do his best to fulfill that confidence. Mrs. Mary Jane Flower was requested to stand and be recognized.

The following is a list of all those nominated: Joe Adams, Don Annas, John Arnold, Earl Banning, L. Bower, G. R. Carlson, Hugh Corey, Richard Dortch, David Flower, Joseph R. Flower, Silas Gaither, T. E. Gannon, James Griggs, James Hamill, Joseph Hardt, Lowell Harrup, D. A. Henderson, G. R. Hendrickson, Clifford Hobson, Raymond Hudson, J. Foy Johnson, Terry King, Fred Leader, Paul Lowenberg, Arthur Parsons, Bartlett Peterson, Bill Robertson, Herman Rohde, E. R. Schulz, William O. Vickery

Election of General Treasurer

The chairman read the provision governing the nomination and election of the general treasurer contained in Bylaws Article II, Section 2 (e). The general secretary reported that the General Presbytery, in keeping with the bylaws, nominated Raymond H. Hudson

for the office of general treasurer. The first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer was cast, and the chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the following results:

Ballots cast	1,311
Needed to elect	874
Raymond H. Hudson received	1,260

Upon hearing the report of the Tellers Committee, the chairman declared Raymond H. Hudson reelected to the office of general treasurer. It was suggested that the response from Brother Hudson be included in the afternoon session.

Recess

The morning session was recessed at 11:51 with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Obie L. Harrup, Sr., former president of Valley Forge Christian College.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 18, 1979

Doyle Patterson led in singing "O for a Thousand Tongues" and Lloyd Jorgenson, North Dakota District superintendent, led in prayer as the Saturday afternoon meeting opened. Mrs. Sarah Palser of Denver, Colorado, and Mrs. L. E. King of Long Beach, California, respectively, played the piano and organ. Owen Carr, newly elected president of Valley Forge Christian College, made the offering appeal. Cyril McLellan, *Revivaltime* choir director, and his wife Beth, faculty member of Central Bible College, presented a duet for the offertory, accompanied by Gwen Jones, editor of *Advance* magazine, at the piano.

General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman introduced Dr. Benjamin Armstrong, former executive secretary of National Religious Broadcasters and the newly named executive director of NRB. He brought greetings on behalf of the 900 organizational members of NRB.

Joseph Santiago of Brooklyn, New York, led in prayer, and the afternoon business meeting was called to order at 2:20.

Roster Committee Report

The sixth report of the Roster Committee as of 1:30 p.m. was received as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,928
Delegates	1,073
Voting constituency	4,001
Licensed ministers	302
Visitors	3,709

Nonvoting constituency	4,011
Total	8,012

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

Ballots were distributed and the chairman read the bylaws stipulations for the nomination and election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. The general secretary reported the General Presbytery has submitted one nominee for the office, namely, J. Philip Hogan. The first elective ballot for the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions was cast.

William Douglas presented the following report of the first elective ballot for executive director of foreign missions:

Ballots cast	1,037
Needed to elect	692
J. Philip Hogan received	1,007

The chair ruled that inasmuch as J. Philip Hogan had received more than the two-thirds vote required, he was reelected as executive director of foreign missions.

Brother Hogan responded by stating that the awe and trepidation which came to him when he was first elected to the office 20 years ago has not diminished. He expressed gratitude for the privilege to serve during "the golden years of missionary endeavor, to be at the forefront of great mass movings of the Holy Spirit in the world." Mrs. Virginia Hogan was requested to stand for recognition.

Spiritual Life Committee Report

R. D. E. Smith, chairman of the Spiritual Life Committee made introductory remarks concerning the deliberations of the committee and then requested Charles A. Anderson, pastor of Calvary Temple, Seattle, Washington, who served as secretary, to read the report as follows:

The Spiritual Life Committee met with the following members present: R. D. E. Smith, chairman; Charles A. Anderson, secretary; James O. Bakker; Earl Banning; Edward Berkey; Alan S. Brewster; Marvin Gorman; Wesley R. Hurst; Mitchell C. Johnson, Jr.; Karl Strader; John W. Thompson; and Thomas F. Zimmerman.

Prior to the General Council, the committee members gave serious personal study to the most valuable spiritual trends and the most detrimental trends within our Fellowship. Then meeting on Thursday, August 16, 1979, the committee engaged in a deeply moving time of prayerful interaction. Key points quickly surfaced.

The committee concurred that the Council on Evangelism in 1968 marked a major turning point for our Movement, and felt it

imperative to constantly keep before the Fellowship the reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as articulated by the Committee on Advance, namely: (1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world; (2) to be a corporate body in which man may worship God (ministering to the Lord); and (3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of Christ.

We observed that each is interrelated, but that it begins at the point of worship and ministering to the Lord. This point is vital to the spiritual health of the Fellowship and foundational to all aspects of church and family life. We therefore echo the plea of the first followers of Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1) and view this as not only a quest for a pattern of prayer, but as a plea for the will to pray and to enter an on-going deep relationship with God, which will affect all levels of our life, including personal character, family life, and public ministry.

EMPHASIS ON BASICS

The consensus of the committee was that we need to continually emphasize the basics, i.e., the Word, prayer, and communion with God. We agreed that the key to the spiritual life and character of our church is the person who stands behind the sacred desk. He must be saturated with the Word and the Holy Spirit and have an abiding communion with God. He needs to lead the church by a personal practice of prayer and fasting. Breakthrough in this realm comes when the leader breaks through. The committee sees this as applicable to all levels of leadership, primarily pastors, but also district officers, headquarters people, college presidents, missionaries, and other persons in positions of major influence. If we are to build on the basics we will have to establish and maintain a personal relationship with God in the communion of prayer. Before there can be a praying nucleus, there must be praying pastor or leader and, we add, his spouse too.

As a committee, we earnestly call for some deep heart-changing commitments to a more intense personal prayer life.

There is abroad an appalling attraction toward instant solutions to deep-seated and long-standing spiritual problems. The committee feels that more is required than a shallow liturgy of prayer or a glib use of some religious formula. God is calling us individually as well as corporately to wait on Him, to seek Him out, to desire Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. When this heart attitude grips the spiritual leader (and his spouse) it will grip and captivate whole churches, colleges, districts, and the entire constituency.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY CURRENT COMMITTEES

The committee takes note of four significant contributions by

current committees, which have the potential of affecting positively our whole Movement. They are:

- (1) The recommendations of the Charismatic Resource Committee;
- (2) The recommendations of the New Church Evangelism Committee;

(The suggestions of both of these committees implement the vision deeply felt by the Spiritual Life Committee.)

- (3) The new 5-year plan for annual emphasis, especially the 1980 emphasis relating to the Church in Action and the 1981 theme of Building Strong Families; and
- (4) The new pastoral theology textbook, *And He Gave Pastors*, which the committee strongly endorses. The committee hastens to add, however, that no mechanical aid, however valuable, can take the place of the unique relationship which the man of prayer has with his Lord.

POSITIVE TRENDS

The committee notes the following valuable spiritual trends of the Assemblies of God today:

- (1) The universality of the current Pentecostal/charismatic revival, often characterized by prolonged seasons of worship accompanied by the singing of Scripture choruses and a freer flow of praise and worship;
- (2) An increased emphasis upon expository preaching and teaching;
- (3) The increasing zest and enthusiasm of our youth for the Word of God, praise and worship, and witnessing at home and abroad; and
- (4) A renewed emphasis in some quarters on the altar call and a bringing of people to decision. Where this is central, whether it be in the local church, the Christian television networks, radio broadcasts, or the revival meeting, the effect is a growing church.

DETRIMENTAL TRENDS

Certain detrimental trends in our Fellowship are noted with deep concern by the committee. Some are spin-offs from the world's value system, including "Madison Avenue Sloganeering," overdependence upon structural programs, personality worship, and materialism.

The committee noted with special alarm:

- (1) The breakdown of marriage and family life even to the point of touching the parsonage.
- (2) A subtle but strong rise of materialism, with a misplaced value system that places high priority upon creature comforts and soulish happiness rather than God's purposes in this world, His pleasure, honor, and glory. Inflation and the fear of depres-

sion concerns many people more than the Word and the purposes of God.

(3) Insensitivity to "hurting" people and the diminishing of the individual.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends the following:

(1) That there be an intensive emphasis and program developed throughout the Fellowship in the field of husband/wife relationships and that it include plans or materials especially directed to the pastoral level. Included in this is a recommendation to make the 1981 emphasis on "Building Strong Families" a genuinely significant factor in our churches.

(2) That each pastor, leader, and private believer make a deep personal commitment to an intensified prayer life on the personal level, and that such a prayer life involve Biblical concepts of intercession and waiting upon God. The investigation of the committee revealed that a significant element in the success and move of the Spirit in certain churches was the personal prayer life of the leader. This renewed emphasis on a relationship with God, matched by an intensified prayer life, will produce a quality of life that will raise up a standard against secularism and materialism.

(3) We further recommend that care be taken not to lose sight of the individual. Personal relationships must be emphasized. In the multiplicity of programs, the striving for growth, the emergence of the much larger local church, we must not forget our Lord's concern for the individual. We especially note the growing number of single adults as well as senior citizens who need our serious attention.

CONCLUSION

Spiritual life and evangelism are two sides of the same coin, a coin that is minted in the atmosphere of intense worship of and communion with God. Allan Redpath observed: "The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment, but the building of a saint is the task of a lifetime." We are engaged with God in the building of saints.

The Spiritual Life Committee offers the following resolution for implementation at this General Council:

Be it resolved that the Spiritual Life Committee become a standing committee, to be appointed by the general superintendent in conjunction with the Executive Presbytery and to report to the Executive Presbytery, whose purpose shall be:

- (1) To continue its present function;
- (2) To work with the Charismatic Resource Committee to implement seasons of spiritual refreshing in meetings at all

levels of the General Council and the district councils; and
(3) To be a resource group for those who desire meetings particularly devoted to prayer, praise, worship, and the Word.

A motion prevailed that the report be received.

Brother Anderson was then requested to reread the resolution stated at the end of the report. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that this resolution be adopted.

The chairman commended the brethren for the valuable service of the committee to our Fellowship. "Without question we are in the greatest era of the potential development of our Movement as a usable instrument for the threefold purpose for which God has raised us as a Movement." He called for prayer that God would keep us on course and asked James T. Lofton of First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona, to lead in a prayer of commitment.

It was noted that in our enthusiasm for the report we failed to realize the list of recommendations included. It was therefore moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that the entire report be adopted.

Introduction of General Treasurer

The chairman requested the newly reelected general treasurer, Raymond H. Hudson, to address the General Council. He responded by expressing thanks for the privilege of being a part of the fellowship of the Assemblies of God, to join in day-by-day business with the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery, and to work with a team of dedicated friends in the Division of the Treasury. "I owe so much, first to my Lord, second to this Fellowship, and third to a lovely companion who has graciously stood by me." Mrs. Marie Hudson was asked to stand for recognition.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

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

Total votes cast	1,175
Needed to elect	784
E. D. Beard	51
R. L. Brandt	258
N. D. Davidson	690
W. R. Leisy	40
Frank N. McAllister	136

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 Northwest Area executive presbyter.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report

of the second electoral ballot for the Northwest Area presbyter:

Total votes cast	1,146
Needed to elect	764
E. D. Beard	5
R. L. Brandt	220
N. D. Davidson	868
W. L. Leisy	3
Frank McAllister	50

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

Admonition for Prayer

Brother Zimmerman expressed gratitude for the wonderful men who serve in the administration at the national headquarters. "You ought to know that for 20 years the leadership has met in the general superintendent's office for prayer for an hour following a 30-minute chapel service at which the whole headquarters family is together. Monday morning is the busiest, because of the accumulation of mail over the weekend, but we have chosen to take the first hour every week for prayer without interruption. We are already in tune with the recommendations of the Spiritual Life Committee report on the emphasis of prayer. I would to God we would pick this up across our Fellowship so that in every one of our district offices there would be a time of prayer observed. Nothing will produce greater unity or more intensity of spirit than to spend this time in intercessory prayer."

Introduction

The chairman recognized Charles Yates, general secretary of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Resolution 6. Representation on General Presbytery by Districts

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 6 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council in 1971 amended Article IX, Section 3 of its constitution, bringing about a change in the qualifications for General Presbytery, which change requires that at least one of the general presbyters must be a pastor; and

WHEREAS, That action has resulted in discrimination against the few districts which have three full-time executive officers by making it impossible for all three executive officers to serve on the General Presbytery; but at the same time permitting the three executive officers of smaller districts to serve (when chosen by the

district to do so) in instances where either one or more of said executive officers are serving as pastor and part-time executive officer; and

WHEREAS, There is no desire to interfere with the provision calling for at least one general presbyter to be a pastor, but only to eliminate the existing discrimination against the four or five affected districts and officers of such districts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX, Section 3, General Presbytery, paragraph "a," which now reads in lines 7 through 11:

"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."

be amended to read:

"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. An exception shall be made for those districts having three full-time executive officers by permitting such districts to have a fourth member on the General Presbytery who shall be elected by the district council. They shall take office immediately."

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 6 be adopted.

The following substitute resolution was then moved and seconded:

WHEREAS, Resolution 6 makes reference in its preamble to "discriminating" against districts who have three full-time executive officers by making it impossible for all three to serve on the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, It would seem appropriate also to note that there is no lay person on the General Presbytery, perhaps thereby discriminating against the largest numerical segment of our Movement and depriving the General Council of the great benefit our outstanding lay people could contribute to the Council; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 6 does not address the issue of lay membership on the General Presbytery, it would seem unwise to enlarge the presbytery until the matter of lay membership has been studied; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Resolution 6 be referred to a committee appointed by the general superintendent for the express purpose of studying the feasibility of lay membership on the General Presbytery, as well as how the General Council throughout its entire

Constitution and Bylaws may make greater provision for the involvement of Assemblies of God lay people on various boards and committees. This committee shall report its recommendations to the 1981 General Council with appropriate written notice given to the Council in the event of proposed Constitution and Bylaws amendments. Further, the study committee shall be composed of four executive or general presbyters, four pastors, and four lay persons.

The one who presented the resolution specifically called attention to the fact it calls for a study of the feasibility of having lay persons serve; it does not call for them to be included. The chairman noted that the substitute resolution carries the intent that Resolution 6 would be delayed until a study committee could give consideration as to the workability of having lay representation on the General Presbytery.

The substitute resolution was again read. By a hand vote, the chair declared the substitute resolution was lost.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

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

Total votes cast	1,190
Needed to elect	794
W. Earl Cummings	69
Donald I. Farmer	53
Jose Giron	54
Dwight McLaughlin	632
Roy Sapp	92
William O. Vickery	290

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 Southwest Area executive presbyter.

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

Total votes cast	1,057
Needed to elect	704
W. E. Cummings	7
Donald I. Farmer	1
Jose Giron	13
Dwight McLaughlin	760
Roy Sapp	19
William O. Vickery	257

The chairman declared D. H. McLaughlin reelected as executive presbyter of the Southwest Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

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

Total votes cast	1,004
Needed to elect	670
Harley W. Olson	87
S. H. Petersen	54
Albert W. Pettet	37
Herman H. Rohde	170
Allan L. Ullestad	27
Roy Wead	629

Due to the fact that the business session was nearing recess, the second ballot was not to be distributed until Monday morning.

Resolution 6. Representation on

General Presbytery by Districts (continued)

The sponsor of the resolution requested the privilege to speak to it which was granted. During further discussion a substitute motion was moved and seconded as follows:

That districts having 25,000 church members or more shall be entitled to elect one additional general presbyter; those having 50,000 members or more would be entitled to have two additional general presbyters. These men shall be ordained ministers who are not full-time officials, with the exception being made for those districts having over 50,000 members; they may have an additional district officer.

It was moved and seconded to amend the substitute motion by the following addition:

Presidents of Bible colleges and liberal arts colleges endorsed by the Education Department shall also serve as members of the General Presbytery.

The chairman observed that before us was a resolution, a substitute motion, and an amendment by addition to the substitute motion.

The following motion to refer was moved and seconded:

That we refer the entire discussion, including the resolution, the substitute motion, and the amendment to the substitute motion to a committee appointed by the Executive Presbytery, which committee will be requested to report at the next General Council. Included in its charge would be to circulate in ample time any constitution or bylaws changes that they might be recommending so that they may be properly considered at that time.

The motion to refer was carried.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. The chairman led in singing the Doxology, and Dwight McLaughlin dismissed in prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 18

The theme of the Saturday evening service was: "Together . . . in Christ." Paul Lowenberg was chairman for the service and Aimee Cortese, prison chaplain from New York, was the speaker. Silas Gaither, national director of the Division of Church Ministries, gave the Scripture reading, Ephesians 1:3-12. Mrs. Ramona Crabtree, pastor's wife of Bethel Assembly of God, San Jose, California, served at the organ and Tom McDonald, minister of music at Trinity Assembly of God, Baltimore, was at the piano.

An orchestra and 250-voice choir composed of musicians from churches in a wide radius of Baltimore presented a musical package under the direction of Paul Ferrin, minister of music at Bethel Assembly of God, San Jose, California, with William Harness, and Gordon Jensen of Hendersonville, Tennessee, as soloists. Another feature of the evening was youth testimonials by Sandy McGlassen of Carlinville, Illinois, and Howard Kenyon, North Texas District Campus Ministries director.

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 19

Raymond H. Hudson was in charge of the Memorial and Communion Service which began at 9:45 a.m. in the Civic Center. Music was provided by John and Theta Hall of Fort Worth, Texas. The speaker for the morning service was Almon Bartholomew, superintendent of the New York District. The theme of the service was "Together . . . in Breaking Bread." Mrs. Earl Johnson, pastor's wife of Bethel Assembly of God, Redding, California, served at the piano, and Gwen Jones, organist at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, played the organ. Ralph Lanning of the U.S. Marine Band presented a cello solo for the offertory.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph B. Flower introduced the Memorial Service. The congregation remained silent during the presentation of the names of deceased ministers by use of slides accompanied by vocal selections by Theta Hall.

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the General Secretary's Office to July 18, 1979:

DECEASED ORDAINED MINISTERS

Alderman, D. V., Corona Del Mar, California
Allsep, Elijah C., Travellers Rest, South Carolina
Ammons, Bert W., Kelso, Washington
Anderson, Catharine B. (Mrs.), Pasadena, Texas
Anderson, Lunda H. (Mrs. B. M.), Yellville, Arkansas
Anderson, Vernon, Lakehurst, New Jersey
Anderson, William C., Sacramento, California
Arnett, Daniel H., Aurora, Colorado
Austin, Edwin E., Mansfield, Ohio
Austin, Effie L. (Mrs.), Atlanta, Georgia
Baird, Harry A., Seminole, Oklahoma
Baker, Irville F., Newcomerstown, Ohio
Baker, Willis W., La Grande, Oregon
Balliet, Emil A., San Jose, California
Bard, B. T., Orange, California
Barnes, Roy S., Pomona, California
Baughner, Paul F., Roy, Utah
Beardsley, Carl A., Hilo, Hawaii
Bell, Ewell R., Geneva, Alabama
Bentley, William V., Spearman, Texas
Bills, Paul E., Anchorage, Alaska
Bishop, Russell H., Santa Cruz, California
Blair, William R., Monroe, Louisiana
Bonnivar, Florence (Mrs.), Havana, Illinois
Bowlen, Lonnie M., Pearland, Texas
Boyer, Orla S., Springfield, Missouri
Brandon, R. L., Sand Springs, Oklahoma
Bregle, Edwin M., Lakeland, Florida
Briner, John I., Cumberland, Maryland
Brodie, Archie O., Richland, Michigan
Brooks, Luther J. R., Jacksonville, Florida
Brown, Herman C., Fort Worth, Texas
Buck, Jack A., Portland, Oregon
Buhrow, Harvey F., Berlin, Wisconsin
Bunch, Willa M. (Mrs.), Louisville, Kentucky
Burns, Homer R., Seligman, Missouri
Call, Howard R., Windsor, California
Campbell, Bird H., Tulsa, Oklahoma
Carlyss, S. Paul, White Plains, New York
Carpenter, Kathryn (Mrs.), Carlsbad, California
Carter, Eulen L., Lexington, Texas
Casey, Arthur L., Inglewood, California
Chadwick, Robert J., Decatur, Georgia
Choate, L. J., Durant, Oklahoma

Christensen, Merrill F., Webster, South Dakota
Church, Hugh S., Springfield, Missouri
Clark, Horace M., Lakeland, Florida
Congelli, Viola M. (Mrs. J.), Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Cook, Sanford E., Lakeland, Florida
Cornell, F. C., Inola, Oklahoma
Costner, Franklin E., Springdale, Arkansas
Cottriel, Andrew J., Burbank, California
Cox, Donald M., Pensacola, Florida
Cox, Dora L. (Mrs.), Escondido, California
Cox, W. O., Lebanon, Missouri
Craig, John D., Perryville, Arkansas
Crane, Benjamin F., Salem, New Jersey
Creamer, Lloyd G., Pasadena, California
Crowder, William C., Wichita, Kansas
Dash, Roy, Sr., Budd Lake, New Jersey
Davis, Ambrose, Milton, Kentucky
DeKlerk, Samuel B., San Leandro, California
DeVito, Raymond, Pismo Beach, California
Dewey, Earl J., Greeley, Colorado
Dickinson, William H., St. Petersburg, Florida
Dictos, Eddie A., Fresno, California
Dirks, Ben M., Union City, Michigan
Dorsing, William G., Acme, Washington
Drake, Frederick D., Jamestown, New York
Drake, Roderick M., Spurger, Texas
Dunn, Willie M., Porter, Texas
Dunning, Loren E., South Fork, Colorado
Duty, Guy W., Castleton, Virginia
Dymond, Perry E., Port Angeles, Washington
Eason, Philip O., Votaw, Texas
Eden, Dale K., McCook, Nebraska
Ellis, Allan S., Seattle, Washington
Ellis, Samuel D., Patterson, California
Emert, Amos L., Knoxville, Tennessee
Escobedo, Modesto, Dallas, Texas
Esmond, Chester, Clarksville, Arkansas
Evans, Albert, North Fort Myers, Florida
Evans, William R., DeQueen, Arkansas
Fischer, Katharine (Mrs. F. J.), Rifle, Colorado
Floyd, William J., Grand Ridge, Florida
Foley, Homer V., Macon, Missouri
Fouk, Marshall C., Central Point, Oregon
Frank, Fred G., Sacramento, California
Fratto, Frank J., Cumberland, Maryland

Fuller, E. Allen, Arkansas City, Kansas
Garcia, Rafael, Spring Valley, New York
Gardner, Warren A., Jacksonville, Illinois
Garns, J. Edward, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
Garrett, James W., Mayflower, Arkansas
Getchell, Zora G. (Mrs.), Boulder, Colorado
Gibilisco, Paul, Trenton, New Jersey
Gilbert, Albert H., Hyattsville, Maryland
Goldsberry, Henry W., Greenville, South Carolina
Gonzales, Diego G., San Antonio, Texas
Goodwin, Edna M. (Mrs. C. E.), Upland, California
Grace, Clara A. (Mrs.), Anaheim, California
Grady, Marie B. (Mrs. J. C.), Chapin, Illinois
Graham, Lloyd S., Springfield, Missouri
Gregg, Willard L., Yakima, Washington
Griffin, Vernon L., Lisbon, Ohio
Grilli, Quirino, Trenton, New Jersey
Grimes, Hilton, Laurel, Mississippi
Gunter, Arthur E., Morgan Hill, California
Gustafson, Eugene, Denver, Colorado
Hall, Leon C., Slocumb, Alabama
Hamar, Guy D., Richland, Washington
Hamilton, Velma L. (Mrs. H. A.), East Peoria, Illinois
Hamilton, William C., Moberly, Missouri
Harris, Iva T. (Mrs.), Johnson City, Tennessee
Hartman, Seth S., Healdsburg, California
Heady, Harold D., Fredericktown, Missouri
Heady, Melvin P., Fredericktown, Missouri
Henderson, Denson J., Kansas City, Missouri
Hickerson, Thomas F., Templeton, California
Hill, William A. D., Union Springs, Alabama
Hobkirk, Wesley E., Kelso, Washington
Hoenes, Fred E., Bradenton, Florida
Hoff, August, Vallejo, California
Hogan, William E., Houston, Texas
Holland, George F., Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
Hollis, Lewis J., Augusta, Kansas
Hudson, Leonard L., Johnson City, Texas
Hunter, Wade, Lawton, Oklahoma
Irwin, Ronald W., Tulsa, Oklahoma
Jacobs, Robert L., San Jon, New Mexico
Jacobsen, Gunnar, Bayside Queens, New York
Jaramillo, Epifanio, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Jennings, Cora E. (Mrs.), Baytown, Texas
Johnson, Clifford E., Seagoville, Texas

Johnson, Edna L. (Mrs.), McCook, Nebraska
Johnson, Joe E., Fairfield, California
Jolly, Mrs. J. D., Dallas, Texas
Jones, Everett B., Phoenix, Arizona
Jones, Horace B., Smithfield, Virginia
Kars, Gunnar R., Lakeland, Florida
Kelso, Anna E. (Mrs.), Springfield, Missouri
Kinderman, Gustave, Oxford, Pennsylvania
King, Russell P., Nampa, Idaho
Kliphouse, Garrett, Hackensack, New Jersey
Lack, Edwin P., Andover, Kansas
Lawson, Walter A., North Little Rock, Arkansas
Lewer, Mary E. (Mrs.), Santa Barbara, California
Lewis, John M., Jabalpur, India
Luke, Rhea B. (Mrs.), Silva, Missouri
Lynch, Elbert H., Tulsa, Oklahoma
McAlister, Harvey, Tulsa, Oklahoma
McDougall, Kenneth A., Billings, Montana
McDuffie, Thomas A., Miami, Florida
McGee, George L., Fort Gibson, Oklahoma
McKinley, Roe L., Longview, Texas
Mangum, William R., Branch, Arkansas
Manus, Joseph E., Conway, Arkansas
Martinez, Jose B., El Paso, Texas
Mauck, Ross C., Ozark, Arkansas
May, Ola E. (Mrs.), Houston, Texas
Medley, Elmer L., Jacksboro, Texas
Mehagan, Elijah C., Shawnee, Oklahoma
Miles, Thomas S., Kenedy, Texas
Miller, Beauford F., Hillsboro, Oregon
Miller, Thurman L., Hot Springs, Arkansas
Ming, Thomas M., Sr., Modesto, California
Moore, Erwin W., Marlow, Oklahoma
Moulton, Donald, Long Beach, California
Mueller, Jacob J., Springfield, Missouri
Muir, Robert J., Fullerton, California
Murray, C. Franklyn, San Jose, California
Nelson, M. C., Minneapolis, Minnesota
Newby, E. L., Fort Worth, Texas
Newby, Rewel R., Fort Worth, Texas
Nichols, Arthur R., Lorain, Ohio
Nicholson, Coy H., Modesto, California
Nickell, Margie, Wichita Falls, Texas
Nolin, Marlin H., Cushing, Oklahoma
North, Ernest J., Kirkland, Washington

Norwood, India (Mrs.), Branson, Missouri
Nothaf, John L., Grand Prairie, Texas
O'Donnell, Lina (Mrs.), Phoenix, Arizona
Pace, Joseph V., Walnut Springs, Texas
Paino, Thomas, Sr., Indianapolis, Indiana
Paris, Oren O., Sr., Springdale, Arkansas
Peck, David H., Kirkland, Washington
Peek, Henry H., Bristol, Tennessee
Perdue, John E., Springfield, Missouri
Peterson, Homer, Sr., Portsmouth, Virginia
Phillips, Roy I., Moberly, Missouri
Pierce, Eugene F., Edmond, Oklahoma
Pierce, Loy V., Kernersville, North Carolina
Poland, Robert P., Millersburg, Indiana
Popejoy, Bill, Belton, Missouri
Poteet, John C., Lake Elsinore, California
Ramsey, L. C., Marshfield, Missouri
Reddin, Thomas W., Springfield, Missouri
Rexroat, Silas S., Tucson, Arizona
Roberts, Preston, Claremore, Oklahoma
Roberts, Ralph, Osceola, Arkansas
Robertson, Laura M. (Mrs. H. J.), Bethany, Missouri
Robinson, Melvin, Newport, Arkansas
Rodriguez, Leonardo, San Bruno, California
Rogers, Leonard H., Twain Harte, California
Roland, Sidney R., Lexington, South Carolina
Rone, Bill C., Roswell, New Mexico
Rorie, John O., Russellville, Arkansas
Rosselli, Joseph, Sherman Oaks, California
Sachs, Marjorie I. (Mrs. W. N.), Bolivar, Missouri
Schelhouse, Charles V., Albuquerque, New Mexico
Schink, Elmer W., White Oak, Pennsylvania
Schoch, Raymond A., Los Angeles, California
Scott, Hazel M., (Mrs. D. G.), Tecopa, California
Sides, Norma M. (Mrs.), Burbank, California
Signorelli, Mary, Bronx, New York
Simonhoff, E. Stephen, Covina, California
Skinner, John A., Modesto, California
Skore, Harry M., Auburn, Washington
Slater, Arthur, Glendale, California
Smith, Connie M. (Mr.), Pendleton, South Carolina
Smith, D. Lee, West Columbia, South Carolina
Smith, Ruby D. (Mrs.), Sulphur Springs, Texas
Smith, Varnel C., Hull, Texas
Smith, W. W., Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Solomon, Abraham, Excelsior Springs, Missouri
 Stafford, Alvie J., Fort Worth, Texas
 Stafford, Willis D., Fritch, Texas
 Starner, Leo S., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
 Steffens, Karl P., Huntington Station, New York
 Stephens, Auther E., Fort Worth, Texas
 Stewart, Robert M., Dover, Florida
 Strand, John M., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Strom, W. G., Kirkland, Washington
 Taff, John A., Chickasha, Oklahoma
 Tarpley, William A., Jacksboro, Texas
 Thomas, Henry A., Zephyrhills, Florida
 Thomas, John A., Lubbock, Texas
 Thurmond, Claude E., Lancaster, California
 Thurmond, William E., Benton, Illinois
 Trail, Alfred, Eldorado, Illinois
 Travis, Eula E. (Mrs.), Bay, Arkansas
 Vinson, Annie L. (Mrs.), Dothan, Alabama
 Voodre, Ethel C. (Mrs. W. F.), Durant, Florida
 Waddle, Homer E., Nashville, Tennessee
 Walker, Peter, Salem, Ohio
 Ward, Charles T., Susanville, California
 Weatherred, Melvin R., Patterson, California
 Weaver, Frank C., Bastrop, Louisiana
 Weyandt, David L., Imler, Pennsylvania
 Whidden, Loye T., Sr., Kannapolis, North Carolina
 Whitcomb, Wilbur W., Wapello, Iowa
 Whitworth, Alonzo E., Fort Worth, Texas
 Wicker, Howard T., West Cape May, New Jersey
 Wiggins, Preston S., Atmore, Alabama
 Wiggins, Willie (Mrs.), Houston, Texas
 Wilson, Carl D., Flomaton, Alabama
 Wilson, T. Allen, Shreveport, Louisiana
 Wilt, Jesse T., Apache, Oklahoma
 Wisdom, Alma (Mrs.), Dallas, Texas
 Wood, L. Carl, Little Rock, Arkansas
 Woolever, Charles E., North Syracuse, New York
 Wright, Sadie A. (Mrs.), Russellville, Arkansas
 Zeller, Emma (Mrs. G. F.), Bridgeton, New Jersey

The general secretary also read the following names of deceased ministers which had been reported after July 18:

Davis, Ferrell D., Fort Worth, Texas
 Duracher, Alton L., New Orleans, Louisiana
 Good, Cecil M., Carson, California
 Hale, Homer P., Live Oak, California

Hill, Harold E., Williamsburg, New Mexico
 Hudson, Mary E., La Belle, Missouri
 Krouse, Violet A., Carrabelle, Florida
 Martin, Samuel E., Fred, Texas
 Morris, William H., Woodlake, California
 Myers, Jacob P., Lakin, Kansas
 Willis, Lora, Luling, Texas

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

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 19

The 65th anniversary vesper service emphasized the theme "Together . . . in Thanksgiving." The speaker was Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of the Full Gospel Central Church of Seoul, Korea. A 65th anniversary visual entitled "Looking Back to Look Ahead" was narrated by Jack Strom, director of development at North Central Bible College. Special music for the service was provided by the Blackwood Brothers Quartet of Memphis, Tennessee, and Americo Caramuta, minister of music at Fountain of Life Center, Burlington, New Jersey.

MONDAY MORNING—AUGUST 20

The Monday morning Bible Hour opened with the singing of "Thy Loving Kindness," "We Have Come Into His House," and "He Is Lord" led by Doyle Patterson. Organist was Daniel Smith, Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and pianist was Tom McDonald. Scripture for the morning, read by Charles W. Denton, Spiritual Life-Evangelism coordinator, was Psalm 117:97-104. Earl Banning of Houston, Texas, led in prayer. Ken Wallace of Crystal Assembly of God in Minneapolis, Minnesota, ministered in song. Superintendent Irvin Steiding of the Appalachian District presented the offering appeal. Tom McDonald played the offertory.

James Hamill, pastor of First Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee, was the morning speaker. His theme was "Together . . . in Doctrine." He noted Luke's words in Acts 2 that the New Testament church "continued in the apostles' doctrine." He exhorted, "Together let us be faithful to God's Word, together let us proclaim God's Word, and together let us spread God's Word."

The business session opened with the singing of "Wonderful, Wonderful, Jesus Is to Me." Brother Zimmerman introduced Herman van Amerom, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God

of Holland, who brought greetings to the General Council in session. Brother Zimmerman asked that he also convey our love and greetings to the brethren in the Netherlands.

Marvin Smith, former superintendent of the Alabama District, was asked to lead in prayer. Before praying he gave testimony of God's intervention in his life after being diagnosed as having terminal cancer.

The chairman declared the business session in order at 10:10 a.m.

Roster Committee Report

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

Ordained ministers	2,955	
Delegates	<u>1,078</u>	
Voting constituency		4,033
Licensed ministers	305	
Visitors	<u>6,466</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>6,771</u>
Total		10,804

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

William Douglas, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the report of the first elective ballot for the office of executive presbyter for the South Central Area:

Total votes cast	929
Needed to elect	620
E. R. Anderson	96
J. W. Farmer	13
Robert E. Goggin	68
Paul Lowenberg	644
Kermit Reneau	83
Josue Sanchez	25

Having received more than the two-thirds vote required to elect, the chairman declared Paul Lowenberg reelected as the executive presbyter from the South Central Area on the first elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

There was no election on the first elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the North Central Area. An additional blank ballot was distributed. The general secretary reported that inadvertently one name had been left off the printed ballot for the North Central Area, that of James Wilkins of the Nebraska District. The general

secretary read the list of nominees as follows: Harley W. Olson, S. H. Petersen, Albert W. Pettet, Herman R. Rohde, Allen L. Ullestad, James Wilkins, and Roy Wead.

A question was raised if the first ballot would be considered legal since the printed ballot did not include all the nominees. It was moved and seconded that the present ballot being cast be considered the first elective ballot, in view of the fact that there was no election on the first ballot. The motion carried.

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

Total votes cast	769
Needed to elect	512
Harley W. Olson	22
S. H. Petersen	6
Albert W. Pettet	3
Herman R. Rohde	99
Allen L. Ullestad	7
Roy Wead	596
James Wilkins	36

The chairman declared that Roy Wead was reelected as executive presbyter from the North Central Area, receiving above the two-thirds vote required.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the following on the first elective ballot for the office of executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	928
Needed to elect	618
Charles Crank	61
Richard Dortch	691
James Ellis	12
Ivar Frick	83
Arthur Parsons	53
Irvin Steiding	28

Richard Dortch was declared reelected to the office of executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area on the first elective ballot.

Resolution 7. Guidelines for Geographical and Foreign Language Districts in Evangelism

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 7 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery appointed a committee to study relationships in evangelism between the geographical and foreign language districts; and

WHEREAS, The report and recommendations of the aforesaid committee were approved by the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, There is need to implement proposed changes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That bylaws Article V, District Councils, Section 4, paragraph "c" be amended by the addition of the following sentence at the end of present paragraph "c":

It should also be understood that there will be occasions when officers of geographical districts should take the initiative to consult with officers of foreign language districts."

And be it further

RESOLVED, That a new paragraph "d" be inserted which shall read as follows:

d. Sponsorship and affiliation of a foreign language group. Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a foreign language group, it should consult with both the geographical and the foreign language districts for counsel and guidance and seek assistance from the foreign language district for a minister to the group. Such an effort should be initiated with the objective in mind that it will develop into a foreign language church in affiliation with the foreign language district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and/or support to such a work through its district home missions department. When such a group reaches as many as 20 adult foreign language members, and desires to become a separate church, the sponsoring church should take steps to encourage the group to become affiliated with the foreign language district.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraph "d," Church Transfer Procedure, become paragraph "e."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the first elective ballot for the office of executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	1,010
Needed to elect	674
James Hamill	839
Merle J. Harris	41
Cecil Janway	46
F. L. Langley	23
N. Cleo Tapp	61

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

Report of Charismatic Resource Committee

A point of order was raised concerning the report from the Charismatic Resource Committee, since it had been felt that this was to be presented along with the report from the Spiritual Life Committee. The chairman expressed the opinion that the Charismatic Resource Committee was an advisory committee to report to the Executive Presbytery and the report would not come to the General Council. Later in the session the general superintendent gave a summary of actions taken in partial fulfillment of the Charismatic resolution passed at the 1977 General Council. He indicated that regional conferences are planned for 1980 with a national conference on the Holy Spirit planned for 1982.

Resolution 8. Sunday School Standard

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 8 as follows:

WHEREAS, The National Sunday School Standard which was in use for many years has been replaced by the new Sunday School Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws Article XIII, Division of Church Ministries, Section 3, paragraph "d," (1), (b) now states:

(b) To encourage every Sunday School in the district to attain to the National Sunday School Standard.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That said paragraph (b) be amended by striking out the words "attain to the National Sunday School Standard" and substituting therefor the words "establish written operational policies based on the Sunday School Guidelines", thus making the paragraph read:

(b) To encourage every Sunday School in the district to establish written operational policies based on the Sunday School Guidelines.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8.

1981 General Council

The chairman reported that St. Louis, Missouri, has been selected as the site for the thirty-ninth General Council to be held August 20-25, 1981. The location will be the Gateway Convention and Exhibition Center, a new facility opened in 1977 in downtown St. Louis.

Resolution 9. Honorary General Presbyter

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Russell Williams has served the Eastern District Council of the Assemblies of God with distinction as superintendent, assistant superintendent, and in additional other important executive positions in the district, including 20 years as a member of the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God; and WHEREAS, The Eastern District Council has taken an action recommending that his name be presented by the General Presbytery to this General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That by an action to adopt this resolution, this General Council declares Russell Williams elected as an honorary general presbyter in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph "d."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 9.

Music Department Visual

A visual from the Music Department was presented, calling attention to new composers and arrangements available through the department.

Recess

Following the singing of the Doxology and prayer by George Wood, the Monday morning session was recessed at 11:49.

MONDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 20

Cliff King led in singing the choruses "Come, Holy Spirit, I Need Thee" and "Oh, How I Love Jesus." Elmer Bilton of Camp Springs, Maryland, led in prayer. The chairman then recognized Gordon Upton, the superintendent of the Western Ontario District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Clifford Lewis, secretary-treasurer of the Eastern District, made the offering appeal and asked God's blessing upon it. Don and Norma Tanner of Lubbock, Texas, were at the piano and organ, respectively, and played "He Lives" for the offertory.

The Monday afternoon business meeting was called to order at 2:20. Woodrow Yasuhara, Hawaii District superintendent, led in prayer for the business meeting.

Roster Committee Report

James Griggs presented the 8th report of the Roster Committee as of 1:30 p.m.

Ordained ministers	2,956
Delegates	1,079
Voting constituency	4,035
Licensed ministers	307
Visitors	6,478
Nonvoting constituency	6,785
Total	10,820

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Roster Committee and to keep the roster open until the evening service at which time it would be closed.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

William Douglas, chairman of the Tellers Committee, submitted the following report of the first elective ballot for the Southeast Area executive presbyter:

Votes cast	1,048
Needed to elect	698
Charles Cookman	42
Robert Gatlin	39
J. Foy Johnson	815
Vaudie V. Lambert	74
Aaron Wall	78

The chairman declared J. Foy Johnson reelected on the first elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

William Douglas reported the following results of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Northeast Area:

Votes cast	1,057
Needed to elect	704
Philip Bongiorno	84
Hugh Corey	41
Samuel DiTrolio	12
O. L. Harrup, Sr.	159
John Leardi	4
John Paproski	59
Joseph Santiago	82
R. D. E. Smith	616

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 Northeast Area executive presbyter.

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

Votes cast	807
Needed to elect	538
Philip Bongiorno	21
Hugh Corey	7
Samuel DiTrolio	1
O. L. Harrup, Sr.	106
John Leardi	0
John Paproski	13
Joseph Santiago	12
R. D. E. Smith	647

The chairman declared R. D. E. Smith reelected executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

Resolution 10. Editing Constitution and Bylaws

Bartlett Peterson read the following Resolution 10 and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Legislation enacted in this thirty-eighth General Council may require editing of portions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Certain portions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws presently need editing for the purposes of clarification in matters of grammar, punctuation, format, and uniformity; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Secretary's Office shall be charged with the responsibility of making such editorial changes without altering meaning or intent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all such changes be carefully examined and authorized by the Executive Presbytery prior to publication.

The motion to adopt Resolution 10 was seconded.

A substitute motion was moved and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, That the general superintendent appoint an Editorial Committee consisting of at least five members who shall edit the Constitution and Bylaws for the purpose of clarification in matters of grammar, punctuation, format, and uniformity, without altering meaning and intent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That any changes recommended be distributed to the constituency and approved by the next General Council in session before being published.

The following amendment to the substitute resolution was moved and seconded:

RESOLVED, That a Special Revisions Committee of seven persons, not more than three of whom shall be headquarters personnel, shall be charged with the responsibility of editing; and the

remainder of the substitute resolution would remain the same.

The question was raised if we have any precedent for this type of authorization. The general secretary responded that at the last General Council he was granted permission to insert sideheadings to make the constitution and bylaws a more workable instrument.

The amendment to the substitute resolution was voted upon and declared lost.

The substitute resolution was voted upon and also declared lost. The motion to adopt Resolution 10 was declared carried.

Resolution 11. Support of National Home Missions

Workers and Industrial and Institutional Chaplains

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 11 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding a paragraph "e" to read as follows: "The 5 percent retained by the Division of Home Missions from missionaries and projects shall be directed back into the specific area of ministry from which it came." Paragraphs "d" and "e" would then be relettered "f" and "g."

After some discussion, the vote was taken and the chairman declared the motion to amend was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the second sentence in paragraphs "c" and "d" as it appears on page 2 of the report, which reads as follows: "When the aforesaid 5 percent falls below a minimum of \$10 per month the worker shall be expected to contribute the amount necessary to meet the minimum."

After discussion and a call for the vote, the chairman was unable to determine the response so he ordered a division of the house. This resulted in 314 affirmative votes to adopt the amendment and 246 negative votes. The chairman declared the motion to amend by deletion had carried.

It was then moved and seconded to refer the resolution to a committee for consideration by the next General Council.

The motion to refer was lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 11 as amended was carried.

Resolution 11 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has called for a committee to study and bring its recommendations relative to the level of support for districts and the national Division of Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, The committee has reported and the General Presbytery has approved the report; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of the report requires certain amendments to the bylaws which are presented herewith for the consideration of the General Council; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That Article VII. Ministry, Section 9. d., page 139, shall be amended by adding new subsections (3) and (4) which shall read:

(3) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries.* Nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries who hold dual membership in a home district and in the district where they minister shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their home district and 25 percent of their tithe to the district where they minister. The home missionary who is a member only of the district where he ministers shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of his tithe to that district.

(4) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed industrial and institutional chaplains.* Nationally appointed industrial and institutional chaplains who hold dual membership in a home district and the district where they minister shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their home district and 25 percent of their tithe to the district where they minister. The chaplain who is a member only of the district where he ministers shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of his tithe to that district.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article XVI. Division of Home Missions, Section 6. c. and d., page 185, be amended to read:

c. Five percent of all funds contributed for nationally appointed and/or approved home missions workers shall be retained by the national Division of Home Missions.

d. Five percent of all funds contributed for nationally appointed and/or approved industrial and institutional chaplains shall be retained by the national Division of Home Missions.

And that the present subsections "d" and "e" be relettered "e" and "f" respectively.

Resolution 12. Support of Headquarters

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 12 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

A motion prevailed to amend the resolution by addition as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article XVIII of the Bylaws, Section 1. c., the third paragraph under (1) shall be amended by deleting it and substituting the following: "Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given an opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

Attention was called to the fact that when this matter was presented

to the General Presbytery, it carried with it the provision that if adopted, each ordained and licensed minister would receive free copies of the ministers and church directories and a copy of the minutes which includes the constitution and bylaws. The chairman noted that the provision does not call for an amendment to the bylaws, but it would be included in the resolution.

A motion prevailed to include the following statement:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That free copies of the church and ministers directories and of the General Council Minutes, which includes the constitution and bylaws, shall be sent to ordained and licensed ministers.

It was moved and seconded to amend paragraph (2) "From Assemblies," on page 1 of the resolution, by deleting \$24 and substituting the words "\$1 per active member." The motion to amend was declared lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 12 as twice amended was carried. The resolution as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The continual erosive effect of inflation has had a direct impact on the expenses incurred in the administration of the National Headquarters offices, and

WHEREAS, The support of said offices by ministers and churches is not keeping pace with the escalation in expenses, therefore be it RESOLVED, That Article XVIII, Section 1. c. (1), page 188, the second subparagraph thereof, be amended to provide that the monthly contributions of the ordained and licensed ministers be changed to \$5 and \$3, respectively, so that the entire subparagraph shall read:

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute five dollars (\$5) per month from their tithes, or as an offering, or through their influence. Licensed ministers should contribute three dollars (\$3) per month. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Article XVIII of the Bylaws, Section 1. c., the third paragraph under (1) shall be amended by deleting it and substituting the following: "Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given an opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal, and be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 1. c. (2), page 188 which now reads:

(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.

Shall be amended to read:

(2) From Assemblies. If practicable, let each assembly contribute one offering of at least \$24 each year for the support of the national headquarters office and the travel expense of the executive officers.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That free copies of the church and ministers directories and the General Council Minutes, which includes the constitution and bylaws, shall be sent to ordained and licensed ministers.

Resolution 13. Eligibility for Rehabilitation

Bartlett Peterson read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Provision is made for rehabilitation of ministers found in violation of Assemblies of God principles as defined in the Bylaws, page 152, Article IX, A, Discipline, Section 9, paragraph d. Eligibility for Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, Further clarification is needed for appropriate implementation, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article IX, A, Discipline, Section 9, paragraph d. Eligibility for Rehabilitation be amended as follows:

The present paragraph d shall be identified as d (1) and a new paragraph shall be added which shall read: (2) In the event a minister has undergone a previous rehabilitation experience, and/or has a record of a prior violation(s) of Assemblies of God principles necessitating disciplinary action as defined in Article IX, Section 2, permission for rehabilitation shall be granted only by the General Council Credentials Committee and terms of such rehabilitation shall be approved by that body.

The motion was seconded.

It was moved and seconded to amend paragraph (2), line one, by deleting the article "a" and inserting in its place the words "more than one." The motion to amend was lost.

The question was raised as to how it would be known that a minister had undergone more than one rehabilitation inasmuch as the records on such incidents are not to be transferred from district to district. The chairman responded by explaining that such information is part of the file at headquarters and that no minister can undergo a program of rehabilitation without it being acted upon and approved by the Executive Presbytery which serves as the Credentials Committee.

Resolution 13 was adopted as presented.

Resolution 14. Honorary General Presbyter

Bartlett Peterson read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Lyle E. Curtis has served the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District as secretary-treasurer, district superintendent, and as general presbyter for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District 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 Lyle E. Curtis as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 1.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Recess

The chairman indicated there were some bylaw amendments which had been mailed to the constituency as required. It was moved and seconded that we set a recess for 5:05 and dispense with the reading of the report as mailed out. This motion was lost.

The chairman stated that the meeting would recess until 8:45 a.m. Tuesday.

It was moved and seconded that the business meeting begin at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday. This motion was also lost.

Brother Zimmerman suggested that delegates gather at 8:30 a.m. for a 15-minute period of prayer prior to the business session.

The general superintendent led in singing the Doxology after which Bartlett Peterson dismissed in prayer at 5 p.m.

TUESDAY MORNING—August 21

The final session of the Thirty-eighth General Council opened with a time of prayer led by the general superintendent. Cliff King led in the singing of "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know" and "I Love Him." Robert Smith, pastor from Springfield, Missouri, led in prayer. Pianist and organist were Mrs. Wilma Larsen and L. B. Larsen, secretary of the Music Department, respectively.

The business session was opened at 8:50 a.m. following prayer by W. R. Leisy, Alaska District superintendent.

Roster Committee Report

James Griggs presented the final roster report which was received as follows:

Ordained ministers	2,957
Delegates	1,079

Voting constituency	4,036
Licensed ministers	307
Visitors	<u>7,317</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>7,624</u>
Total	11,660

A motion prevailed to express deep appreciation to the members of the Roster Committee for their dedicated labors.

Amendment to Bylaws Article XVIII Division of the Treasury

The general secretary read the proposed amendment to Section 2. Stewardship Department, paragraph c. (3), which had come as a referral from the Executive Presbytery, as follows:

Section 2. Stewardship Department

c. World Ministries Giving

(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. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can only be granted World Ministries Giving credit if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval, and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the national headquarters. It is expected that the national division related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

A motion prevailed to adopt the proposed bylaws amendment.

Amendments to Bylaws Article XVI Division of Home Missions

The general secretary read the proposed amendments to Article XVI, indicating new copy and changes in wording, etc.

It was moved and seconded that the proposed amendments be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to add a new paragraph "f." under Section 4. Special Ministries Department, to read as follows:

American Indian Representative. American Indian Ministries shall be under the direction of a full-time American Indian Representative. A person with American Indian Ministries experience, and preferably one who is an American Indian according to federal definition, shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery. The appointment shall be subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be amenable to and work in conjunction with the national director of Home Missions in ministries to American Indians.

A question was raised concerning the phrase "American Indian according to federal definition," since this has a different meaning in the various tribes. It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by deleting this phrase. The motion to amend the amendment was lost.

The motion to amend by adding a paragraph concerning a full-time American Indian representative was voted on and declared lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 11 of the report by adding a new paragraph "c" to read as follows: "Appointing and endorsing knowledgeable contact pastors and/or laymen to the correctional facilities, said persons to serve in compliance with institutional chaplains and/or institutional policies and procedures." Also relettering paragraph "c" to "d," "d" to "e," and "e" to "f," and including a new paragraph "g" as follows: "Providing for ministry during and following incarceration to effect the successful return of the inmate to the free world and providing a proper liaison between correctional ministries, the local districts, and the national representatives of the industrial and institutional chaplaincy."

The feeling was expressed that further amendments could be more properly made through proper channels and be presented in the 1981 General Council for consideration. It was moved and seconded that the above motion be tabled. The motion to table was carried.

The motion to adopt Bylaws Article XVI was carried.

The bylaw amendment as adopted follows:

ARTICLE XVI. DIVISION OF HOME 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 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. He shall be charged with the oversight of the Division of Home Missions.

b. Home Missions Board. The New Church Evangelism Department and Special Ministries Department shall be under the supervision of a Home Missions Board. It 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.

(1) *Elections.* The members of the Home Missions Board shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(2) *Term of office.* A term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that one-half of the terms expire annually.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* It shall be the responsibility of the Home Missions Board to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, 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 in its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. Commission on Chaplains. The Chaplaincy Department shall be under the supervision of a Commission on Chaplains appointed by the Executive Presbytery according to the provisions set forth in Section 5 of this article.

d. 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.

e. Advisory Committee. The department secretaries of the Division of Home Missions together with the national director shall constitute an Advisory Committee.

f. Special committees. Other special committees may be appointed at the discretion of 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. Functions. The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

i. Liaison with districts. The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in each area may be refined and offered to other districts. However, the supervision and administration of the work of the various ministries shall be committed to the districts where they are located.

Section 3. New Church Evangelism Department

a. Department secretary. There shall be a department secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the national director of the Division of Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Function. The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various district councils. 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.

Section 4. Special Ministries Department

a. Department secretary. There shall be a department secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the national director of the Division of Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Function. 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.

c. Cooperation with districts. The Special Ministries Department shall function in cooperation with the various districts as set forth in Section 2, paragraphs "h" and "i."

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 set forth in Section 2, paragraphs "h" and "i." 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. His duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, paragraphs "h" and "i."

f. 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.

g. 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 Missions Manual*.

Section 5. Chaplaincy Department

a. Department secretary. There shall be a department secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the national director of the Division of Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition*. The Commission on Chaplains 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 secretary 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. The commission shall serve as the endorsing agent for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Members of the commission and its chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Term of office*. A term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that one-half of the terms expire annually.

(3) *Authority and amenability*. The government and work of the Chaplaincy Department shall be vested in and committed to the Commission on Chaplains. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It shall have the responsibility to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the area of its supervision, to establish criteria for the appointment of workers in the military, industrial, and institutional chaplaincies, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy

(1) *National representative*. There shall be a national representative for the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy (except Veteran's Administration Hospital Chaplaincy).

(2) *Functions*. The basic functions of this area shall include:

(a) Processing applications of candidates for the industrial or institutional chaplaincy for submission to the Commission on Chaplains for its official endorsement.

(b) Providing supportive ministry for full-time and part-time chaplains.

(c) Supplying Bibles, training courses, and other literature for individuals in industry and institutions.

(d) Seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and encouraging them therein.

(e) Receiving offerings designated for this ministry and support from its various chaplains.

d. Military Chaplaincy

(1) *National representative*. There shall be a national representative for the military chaplaincy.

(2) *Functions.* The basic functions of this area shall include:

(a) Processing applications of candidates for the military chaplaincy for submission to the Commission on Chaplains for it to extend ecclesiastical approval and endorsement.

(b) Working 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.

(c) Appointing contact pastors for each of the active military bases in the United States.

(d) Working among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.

(e) Seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and encouraging them therein.

(f) Receiving offerings designated for these ministries and support from its various chaplains.

Recognition of General Council Coordinator

The chairman recognized Charles Denton, who served as General Council coordinator, expressing appreciation to him and to his assistant, John Ohlin, for their expertise in handling the many details of the convention. Brother Denton noted several good reports which had been received from personnel in the convention bureau, hotels, auditorium, etc., concerning our convention.

The general treasurer also noted that all expenses were more than covered by offerings.

Decade of Church Growth—The 1980s

As an outgrowth of the Sunday night meeting, a motion prevailed that we refer to the Executive Presbytery for any action it may deem advisable, the desire of this General Council that the decade of the 1980s be declared and exploited as The Decade of Church Growth.

Resolution 15. Resolution of Appreciation

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee acknowledged the members of the Resolutions Committee. Appreciation was expressed for their diligent service.

He then read Resolution 15 as follows:

WHEREAS, God has granted immeasurable favor to the Thirty-eighth session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God according to His abundant mercies; and

WHEREAS, Many persons and agencies have contributed generously of their talents and helpful services to the success of the session and the well-being of our people; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the general secretary of the General Council be requested to convey expressions of appreciation to the following:

Gene Bechterle, senior vice-president, Baltimore Convention Bureau; Wayne Chappell, executive director, Baltimore Convention Bureau; Cathy Morgan, convention sales and housing; Charles Neustadt, Civic Center manager and the Civic Center staff; James Smither, executive director, Baltimore Convention Center; Miles Dickerson, advertising manager, *News American*; the City of Baltimore and its police department; area hotels and motels; the news media; and our genial hosts, the Potomac District and its superintendent, the Reverend Howard Spruill.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that Resolution 15 be adopted.

Approval of Minutes

A motion prevailed that the general secretary be authorized to edit the minutes of the Thirty-eighth General Council for the examination and approval by the Executive Presbytery for subsequent publication.

Appreciation was expressed to the general secretary and the recording secretaries, Verna B. Flower, Betty Wannemacher, and Jewell Woodward, for their assistance.

A privileged motion was presented, seconded, and unanimously carried expressing appreciation to the general superintendent for his leadership and integrity shown during a difficult time in the past 2 years. The general superintendent responded in expressing his joy in being able to serve the Fellowship and his appreciation for the kindness which has been shown to him and to all the executive officers. He expressed appreciation for the unity which has been displayed and also shared his feeling that the Assemblies of God is on the threshold of the greatest forward thrust it has ever had.

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Thirty-eighth General Council be adjourned *sine die* at 10:52 a.m., August 21, 1979. Following the singing of "God Be With You," the meeting concluded with prayer by Bartlett Peterson.

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 21, 1979**

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshiped by man, and (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son.

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the body or church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

That the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit set over the church pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

That the Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States and foreign lands to 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

The prerogatives of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- 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 Assembly 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 Begotten; 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 sub-

sequent 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 a 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), and (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 directors of the

Division of Foreign Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the field directors 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 constitutional agreements or bylaws. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed field the district council shall be expected to keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and

cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated. 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

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council affiliated assembly is one which has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

a. Requirements for affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

(1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.

(2) Adopt a standard of membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself or by agreement with the district council.

(3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body.

(4) Adopt a constitution and bylaws compatible with those recommended by the district council.

(5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution and bylaws.

(6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and/or a district council.

b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district councils. A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and district councils and may send delegates to the General Council and district councils.

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated 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 it is affiliated with 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. A General

Council affiliated 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 Affiliation if deemed necessary.

e. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated 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 General Council affiliated 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 council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of the district council constitution and bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

Section 3. World Ministries Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in the world ministries of the Assemblies of God 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 life 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 the offices 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 at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall 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, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho, Wyoming

Southwest Area: Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California-Nevada, Rocky Mountain, Southern California

North Central Area: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northern Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

South Central Area: Kansas, New Mexico, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Texas, West Texas

Great Lakes Area: Appalachian, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

Gulf Area: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southern Missouri, Tennessee

Northeast Area: Eastern, New Jersey, New York, Northern New England, Potomac, Southern New England

Southeast Area: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Peninsular Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, West Florida

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 2, paragraph b. (2) (a), and of the *Laymen's Advisory Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions* as provided for in Article XV, Section 2, paragraph h. 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 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 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 offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council, with the exception that in the event of death or incapacity of the general superintendent the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council.

b. **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. The general superintendent shall emphasize and implement the threefold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, and the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.

b. He shall be general superintendent of all work on the field conducted in behalf of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. He shall supervise all the work of the general office, act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.

d. He shall preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.

e. He shall preside at all meetings of the Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.

f. He shall preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration and receive all communications directed to these bodies.

g. He shall 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.

i. 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. The assistant general superintendent shall assist the general superintendent.

b. He shall serve as vice-president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration in the absence of the general superintendent.

c. He shall 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.

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.

f. 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.

Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer

a. The general treasurer shall be the executive director of the Division of the Treasury.

b. He shall be custodian of all funds.

c. He shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disburse-

ments, conducting the work of his office according to accepted business methods.

d. He shall give a report from time to time as may be requested by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.

e. He shall give bond to the amount of \$50,000. The treasurer's books shall be audited annually by competent auditors.

f. 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 divisions, 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 12 members of the General Presbytery shall have the prerogative of calling a special session of the General Presbytery by presenting a signed request to the general superintendent who shall determine the time of such meeting in consultation with the Executive Presbytery.

c. Any district council by the action of its district presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.

d. The General Presbytery shall also act as a Court of Appeal for the reviewing of testimony given in missionary and ministerial trials. Its decisions shall be final.

e. The General Presbytery shall determine the salaries and/or allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of five general presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. It shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

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

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute 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 cards. 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 the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards 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 shall 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, or bylaws.

(2) Those proposals absurd in substance.

d. **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.

e. **Format of presentation.** The Resolutions Committee shall:

(1) Put resolutions in proper form.

(2) Eliminate duplication where similar resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in a logical sequence.

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. **Sponsorship and affiliation of a foreign language group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a foreign language group, it should consult with both the geographical and the foreign language districts for counsel and guidance and seek assistance from the foreign language district for a minister to the group. Such an effort should be initiated with the objective in mind that it will develop into a foreign language church in affiliation with the foreign language district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and/or support to such a work through its district home missions department. When such a group reaches as many as 20 adult foreign language members, and desires to become a separate church, the sponsoring church should take steps to encourage the group to become affiliated with the foreign language district.

e. **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, paragraph a.

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. 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 the 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 Report 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

Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding persons who seek to gain entrance to teach or minister. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. 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 unknown persons seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council

a. **Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and conduct. (See Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d, of the constitution.)

b. **Relationship.** "Cooperative fellowship" describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

c. **Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor and/or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members.

d. **Preservation of affiliation.** In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the district officary to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officary the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church.

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

When the membership of a General Council affiliated church falls below 20 active voting members, it shall seek the assistance of the district officary for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. If after 1 year the minimal number of 20 members is not attained the church shall revert to district affiliated status. The church shall remain in a district council affiliated status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a General Council affiliated church as provided for in Article XI, Section 1, of the constitution. 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. **Status of assembly.** 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. **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, A, Section 2, of the bylaws.

Section 7. 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, paragraph 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 15 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 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 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 con-

stitutes 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.** Christian workers certificates and licenses 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. They 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 Ordination have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card 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 \$5 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 ordained and licensed ministers 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.

(3) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries.* Nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries who hold dual membership in a home district and in the district where they minister shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their home district and 25 percent of their tithe to the district where they minister. The home missionary who is a member only of the district where he ministers shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of his tithe to that district.

(4) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed industrial and institutional chaplains.* Nationally appointed industrial and institutional chaplains who hold dual membership in a home district and the district where they minister shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their home district and 25 percent of their tithe to the district where they minister. The chaplain who is a member only of the district where he ministers shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of his tithe to that district.

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

A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY

a. Authorization and purpose. A Commission on Doctrinal Purity shall be established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings. The commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery.

b. Appointments and terms of office. The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of 10 members representing, insofar as possible, the geographic area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in Biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be for 4 years.

c. Vacancies and terminations. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such action advisable. A decision to declare a vacancy and to fill such vacancy may be made at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery.

B. LIST OF 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, B, 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, B, 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 officary or by the Executive Presbytery. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual fellowship cards 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 superchurch 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, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- j. Violations of ministerial courtesies. (Cf. Article VIII, B, Section 8.)
- k. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (Cf. Article VIII, B, Section 9.)
- l. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (Cf. Article VIII, B, 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 al-

leged 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 director 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 Divi-

sion 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 card 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 card 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 as "lapsed"

in the *Assemblies of God Minister*, hereinafter referred to as the ministers letter.

(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.

(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 card 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 case 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.

(1) *Previous dismissal.* 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.

(2) *Previous rehabilitation.* In the event a minister has undergone a previous rehabilitation experience, and/or has a record of a prior violation(s) of Assemblies of God principles necessitating disciplinary action as defined in Article XI, Section 2, permission for rehabilitation shall be granted only by the General Council Credentials Committee and terms of such rehabilitation shall be approved by that body.

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

a. **Filing of appeal.** 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.

b. **Record of proceedings.** The district shall be expected to furnish a record of the proceedings leading up to the district action.

c. **Remanding of case to district.** If in the judgment of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the district presbytery for review and reconsideration.

d. **Authorization for a trial.** In the event there is no change of viewpoint by the district, a trial by jury may be authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee.

e. Denial of appeal.

(1) *Forfeiture of right of appeal.* 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.

(2) *Insufficient grounds for appeal.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to authorize a trial.

f. **Surrender of credentials.** The accused minister shall be required to surrender his current fellowship card, 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.

g. **Right to appeal to General Presbytery.** A disciplined minister who has been denied a trial may appeal to the General Presbytery for that right. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

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. The judge 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 rul-

ings 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 coordinating office to assist the general superintendent in implementing the threefold mission of the church. Divisions and departments shall cooperate in this priority effort.

Section 2. Organizations

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.** There shall be a Committee on Mission to assist in promoting and coordinating efforts to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.

(1) *Function.* 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 divisions and departments the emphasis which it or the general superintendent places upon each phase of the threefold mission.

(2) *Composition.* 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 chairman of the Committee on Mission. The Spiritual Life-Evangelism coordinator shall serve as secretary.

(3) *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.* There shall be a Board of Education which shall consist of 18 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 Assembly of God college from each of the eight geographical areas of the United States, two laymen, and six presidents of endorsed institutions of higher learning.

(a) *Selection of board.* The national director shall serve as chairman of 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.

(b) *Terms of office.* 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.

(c) *Authority and amenability.* The government and work of the Education Department shall be vested in and committed to the Board of Education. 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 shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. 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:

(1) *New schools.* It may offer guidance and counsel in the opening of new schools, academic and theological, and may take the initiative in the establishing of such schools.

(2) *Expansion of school services.* It may recommend the broadening of the scope of individual school services.

(3) *Standard for endorsement.* It may 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.

(4) *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.

d. Rights and prerogatives

(1) *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.

(2) *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.

(3) *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.

(4) *Textbooks.* It shall also be the prerogative of the Education Department to seek to provide our own textbooks for our Bible schools.

(5) *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) Publishing 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 materials 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 Department 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 department in each district of the Assemblies of God. The purpose shall be:

(a) To coordinate national, district, sectional, and local efforts for Sunday school efficiency, growth, and development.

(b) To encourage every Sunday school in the district to establish written operational policies based on the National Sunday School Guidelines.

(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

ity 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. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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. Agency to fulfill church's mission. The primary responsibility of this division, and the departments in its field of activity, shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

c. 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.

d. **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 Communications.

e. **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.

(2) **Purpose.** The *Pentecostal Evangel* 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.

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 ratification by the General Presbytery. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their 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. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their 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. Administrative assistant. The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrative assistant who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the Division of Foreign Missions.

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 administrative assistant, four field directors, and eight pastors of proven foreign missions zeal and accomplishments. The pastors shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery from the eight established geographical areas of the United States and ratified by the General Presbytery.

(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 directors.** Field directors 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 administrative assistant as vice-chairman, the field directors, 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 directors 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 shall be 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. Their terms of office shall be for 3 years and so arranged that one-third of their terms expire annually. 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, its 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 trans-

ferred 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 are 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 director 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 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 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. He shall be charged with the oversight of the Division of Home Missions.

b. **Home Missions Board.** The New Church Evangelism Department and Special Ministries Department shall be under the supervision of a Home Missions Board. It 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, 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.

(1) **Elections.** The members of the Home Missions Board shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(2) **Term of office.** A term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that one-half of the terms expire annually.

(3) **Authority and amenability.** It shall be the responsibility of the Home Missions Board to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, to establish standards for appointed home missionaries and home missions institutions, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to the field and division decisions in its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. **Commission on Chaplains.** The Chaplaincy Department shall be under the supervision of a Commission on Chaplains appointed

by the Executive Presbytery according to the provisions set forth in Section 5 of this article.

d. **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.

e. **Advisory Committee.** The department secretaries of the Division of Home Missions together with the national director shall constitute an Advisory Committee.

f. **Special committees.** Other special committees may be appointed at the discretion of 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. **Functions.** The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

i. **Liaison with districts.** The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in each area may be refined and offered to other districts. However, the supervision and administration of the work of the various ministries shall be committed to the districts where they are located.

Section 3. New Church Evangelism Department

a. **Department secretary.** There shall be a department secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the national director of the Division of Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. **Function.** The primary function of this department shall be the establishing of new churches in cooperation with the various district councils. 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.

Section 4. Special Ministries Department

a. **Department secretary.** There shall be a department secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the national director of the Division of Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. **Function.** 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.

c. **Cooperation with districts.** The Special Ministries Department shall function in cooperation with the various districts as set forth in Section 2, paragraphs h and i.

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 set forth in Section 2, paragraphs h and i. 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. His duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, paragraphs h and i.

f. **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.

g. **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 Missions Manual*.

Section 5. Chaplaincy Department

a. **Department secretary.** There shall be a department secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the national director of the Division of Home Missions in supervising the work of the depart-

ment. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Commission on Chaplains

(1) **Composition.** The Commission on Chaplains 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 secretary 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. The commission shall serve as the endorsing agent for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Members of the commission and its chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) **Term of office.** A term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that one-half of the terms expire annually.

(3) **Authority and amenability.** The government and work of the Chaplaincy Department shall be vested in and committed to the Commission on Chaplains. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It shall have the responsibility to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the area of its supervision, to establish criteria for the appointment of workers in the military, industrial, and institutional chaplaincies, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy

(1) **National representative.** There shall be a national representative for the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy (except Veteran's Administration Hospital Chaplaincy).

(2) **Functions.** The basic functions of this area shall include:

(a) Processing applications of candidates for the industrial or institutional chaplaincy for submission to the Commission on Chaplains for its official endorsement.

(b) Providing supportive ministry for full-time and part-time chaplains.

(c) Supplying Bibles, training courses, and other literature for individuals in industry and institutions.

(d) Seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and encouraging them therein.

(e) Receiving offerings designated for this ministry and support from its various chaplains.

d. Military Chaplaincy.

(1) *National representative.* There shall be a national representative for the military chaplaincy.

(2) *Functions.* The basic functions of this area shall include:

(a) Processing applications of candidates for the military chaplaincy for submission to the Commission on Chaplains for it to extend ecclesiastical approval and endorsement.

(b) Working among service personnel, known as Military Personnel Ministries, with the understanding 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.

(c) Appointing contact pastors for each of the active military bases in the United States.

(d) Working among veterans, particularly those confined to hospitals.

(e) Seeking opportunities for ministry for chaplains and encouraging them therein.

(f) Receiving offerings designated for these ministries and support from its various chaplains.

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. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Division of Home Missions for nationally appointed and/or approved home missions workers.

d. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Division of Home Missions for nationally appointed and/or approved industrial and institutional chaplains.

e. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

f. 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, each of which shall be supervised by a manager 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.

(1) *Composition.* 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.

(2) *Amenability.* The Board of Publication shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(3) *Subcommittees.* Subcommittees 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.

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 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 \$5 per month from their tithes, or as an offering, or through their influence. Licensed ministers should contribute \$3 per month. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given an opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

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.

(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 contribute one offering of at least \$24 each year for the support 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. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can only be granted World Ministries Giving credit if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval, and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the national headquarters. It is expected that the national division related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also 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 mission 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 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 shall be allowed for the administration of the district Christ's Ambassadors office at the discretion of the district official.

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.