

MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

**THE THIRTY-NINTH GENERAL COUNCIL
St. Louis, Missouri, August 20-25, 1981**

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

Convened at Saint Louis, Missouri
August 20-25, 1981
with
Revised Constitution and Bylaws

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

Printed in U.S.A.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Thomas F. Zimmerman, Chairman

Robert L. Brandt	Raymond H. Hudson
G. Raymond Carlson	J. Foy Johnson
Richard W. Dortch	Paul E. Lowenberg
Joseph R. Flower	R. D. E. Smith
Marvin E. Gorman	Everett R. Stenhouse
J. Philip Hogan	Roy H. Wead

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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FOREWORD

The largest registration to date for any General Council, a total of 11,906, was recorded at the 39th General Council in St. Louis, Missouri, August 20-25, 1981. The speakers ably presented different aspects of the theme, "God Omnipotent Reigns," beginning with General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman's challenging Keynote Message on "God Omnipotent Reigns—in the Church."

Subthemes of the main theme were given excellent treatment in the evening rallies by the following speakers: Frank E. Martin, general presbyter and pastor in Montgomery, Alabama, Friday, August 21, "... in Our Homes"; David Wilkerson, founder and president of Teen Challenge, Inc., Saturday, August 22, "... in Our Lives"; J. Philip Hogan, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, Sunday, August 23, "... in Our World"; Paul E. Lowenberg, executive presbyter and evangelist, Monday, August 24, "... in the Future." The song leaders for the services were David Bemis, minister of music at Full Gospel Tabernacle, Orchard Park, New York, and Edwin Loftin, minister of music at Trinity Temple, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The speaker for the Communion-Memorial Service on Sunday morning, August 23, was Raymond H. Hudson, general treasurer. The names of 354 ordained ministers deceased during the biennium were listed on the image magnification screen.

There was a helpful emphasis on prayer throughout the Council which contributed to the high level of blessing upon the services and the smooth manner in which business was expedited. Owen Carr, president of Valley Forge Christian College, was in charge of the Prayer and Praise service on Friday, and Richard B. Foth, president of Bethany Bible College, led the prayer emphasis period on Monday. The speaker for the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday was Alice Reynolds Flower of Springfield, Missouri.

At the outset of the business sessions, the executive presbyters, retired executive presbyters who were present, and national directors of divisions were introduced. Fraternal delegates were recognized and attention was directed toward those serving on General Council Committees, all of whose names are recorded in the minutes which follow. Throughout the Council other fraternal delegates were recognized, to which reference is also made in the minutes.

Before new business was considered, an assignment from the 1979 General Council was presented in the form of a committee report on General Presbytery Representation. This was referred for further study to a new committee which is to report to the 1983 General Council. Five resolutions were referred to study committees, with a report to be brought back to the 1983 General Council. These are: Use of Assemblies of God Name by Churches; Composition and Election of Executive Presbytery; National Group Hospitalization

Insurance Program; Status of Divorced and Remarried Persons; and a study of percentages for the emergency fund and administrative costs of the Division of Foreign Missions. Another resolution, Support of General Council Headquarters by Senior Ministers, was referred back to its sponsor for further clarification. Four additional resolutions were adopted, as follows: Parents' Rights; National Ministers Day; Refugee Resettlement; and a Resolution of Appreciation.

The actions taken which affected the General Council Bylaws were as follows:

1. Southeastern Spanish District Council—Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c. (2)
2. Foreign Language Districts Area Designations—Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c. (2)
3. Ministerial Credentials Terminations—Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 7, a. and b.
4. Ministerial Reinstatements—Bylaws Article IX, B, Section 15, a. b. and c.
5. Nomination and Election of Executive Presbyters—Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c. (1)
6. Residency Requirements for Ordination Applicants—Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c. (4) and (5)
7. National Women's Ministries Committee—Bylaws Article XIII, Section 4, paragraph b. (2)
8. Disabled Ministers—Bylaws Article VII, Section 7, paragraph b. (4)
9. Chaplains Military Assignments, Definition—Bylaws Article VII, Section 9, paragraph d. (2)
10. Financial Support for Commission on Chaplains—Bylaws Article XVI, Section 6, paragraph d.
11. Credential Renewal Cut-off Date and Renewal Fee—Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, paragraphs a. b. c. and d.; and Article IX, Section 10, paragraph c. (1)
12. Transfer Requirements Exceptions—Article VII, Section 10, b. (7)
13. Duties of the Executive Director of Foreign Missions—Bylaws Article III, Section 5
14. Revision of Bylaws Article XV. Division of Foreign Missions

The incumbent resident officers were returned to office on the nominating ballots. Three new nonresident executive presbyters were elected: Robert L. Brandt, from the Northwest Area; Everett R. Stenhouse, from the Southwest Area; and Marvin E. Gorman, from the Gulf Area. The following honorary general presbyters were elected: E. R. Anderson, N. D. Davidson, Theodore E. Gannon, Robert E. Goggin, James E. Hamill, Wayne H. Hemphill, Wiley G. Hinecker, Dwight H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, N. Cleo Tapp, and Earl G. Vanzant.

One of the most significant matters brought before the Council was the Spiritual Life Committee Report. Special attention should be

given to the general superintendent's comments after the acceptance of this report.

Please note the available position papers that are listed in the back of this book. These complimentary minutes and revised constitution and bylaws, together with the ministers and church directories, are being sent to all licensed and ordained ministers.

JOSEPH R. FLOWER
GENERAL SECRETARY

MINUTES OF
THE THIRTY-NINTH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED
AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
AUGUST 20-25, 1981

The 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Cervantes Conference Center, St. Louis, Missouri, beginning Thursday, August 20, at 2 p.m. Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent, called the meeting to order and then introduced the song leaders who would be directing congregational singing during the services. They were David L. Bemis, minister of music at Full Gospel Tabernacle, Orchard Park, New York; and Edwin Loftin, minister of music at Trinity Temple, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Brother Loftin led the congregation in singing, "He Hath Made Me Glad," "Praise the Name of Jesus," "I Will Praise Him," and "Jesus, There's Just Something About That Name."

T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions, gave the opening prayer.

Serving at the piano and organ respectively were Mrs. Glenda Morris, of Springfield, Missouri; and Mrs. Elnora Dresselhaus, wife of Pastor Richard Dresselhaus of First Assembly of God in San Diego, California.

Introduction of Executive Presbytery

Brother Zimmerman introduced the members of 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, Dwight H. McLaughlin, R. D. E. Smith, and Roy H. Wead.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

In introducing the retired executive presbyters, Brother Zimmerman stated that Ernest S. Williams, who served the Assemblies of God as general superintendent for two decades, sent his love and greetings and said, "Tell the brethren I am not as active as I once was." Brother Williams is 96 years of age.

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.

A. A. Wilson, former executive presbyter, now residing in Springfield, Missouri, also sent his greetings.

Prayer was requested for Mrs. Hardcastle and Mrs. Wilson, both of whom are in poor health.

Introduction of National Directors of Divisions

The following headquarters personnel were introduced: Hardy W. Steinberg, national director of the Division of Christian Education; Silas L. Gaither, national director of the Division of Church Ministries; Lee Shultz, national director of the Division of Communications; T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions; and William G. Eastlake, national director of the Division of Publication.

Introduction of Fraternal Delegates

The general superintendent introduced the following fraternal delegates: Roy M. Chappell, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Church of God of America; Chester H. Heath, general superintendent of the Free Gospel Church, Inc.; James Hout, Jr., pastor of the Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Decatur, Illinois, who was the representative of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Roy King, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland; A. G. Richards, general treasurer of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Dr. Billy A. Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals, was also introduced, and he addressed the body, giving a brief history of NAE and sharing concerns for its future ministry. He expressed appreciation for the participation of the Assemblies of God throughout the years since becoming a charter member.

Offering

Raymond H. Hudson announced that the budget for this biennial meeting amounted to \$302,177. Some funds had been allocated for this purpose but a balance of \$164,777 needed to be raised. The offering was received during which time Pastor and Mrs. Stephen L. Harris of Calvary Assembly of God in Brush, Colorado, sang.

Committees

The general superintendent stated there was a host of people who have been involved in planning and preparing for the General Council and referred to the following committees:

General Council Committees

Budget

Raymond H. Hudson, chairman; Richard W. Dortch, Merle J. Harris, Gene Jackson, A. W. Pettet, W. Nelson Sachs, Allan L. Ullestad

Music

Max Eleiott, chairman; Paul Ferrin, Lawrence B. Larsen, Lena Mae Leach, Hal Stewart, John Wannenmacher

Parliamentary

D. V. Hurst, chairman; David W. Flower, Merle J. Harris

Resolutions

Bartlett Peterson, chairman; Charles Anderson, Philip Bongiorno, Fred Cottriel, Gordon Matheny, Derald Musgrove, Armon Newburn, Julie Ramirez, R. D. E. Smith, Paul Tinlin, Frank Trevino

Roster

L. Jack Moore, chairman; Margaret Alarcon, William Ashpole, Thomas Beard, James Brankel, Weldon W. Coker, Sr., S. Leon Cooke, Robert Foster III, James R. Jackson, Loren H. Kohl, David Krist, Vergil Moos, Richard Neubauer, Donald Nye, Ansley Orfila, Steven M. Rose, Daniel D. Rothwell

Spiritual Life

Thomas F. Zimmerman, chairman; G. Raymond Carlson, vice-chairman; James Allen, Earl J. Banning, Earl Book, Richard W. Dortch, Marvin E. Gorman, J. Philip Hogan, J. Foy Johnson, J. Thomas Lofton, Thomas F. Reid, Kermit Reneau, Irvin G. Steiding, Karl D. Strader, George O. Wood; Hardy W. Steinberg and C. W. Denton, resource persons

Tellers

D. Fred Leader, chairman; Donald E. Annas, captain; Bruno Glodkowski, captain; Darwin Heuser, captain; James F. Allen, Richard Babcock, Joe V. Banda, M. Doris Barnard, Arlen Benson, R. Stanley Berg, Richard L. Breazeale, Melvin Brewer, Jr., Richard L. Brown, E. J. Bruton, Lindell A. Buck, Sherman Buschow, Ronald Callahan, David Cawston, Fred Chilton, Ernest B. Corbin, Robert Crabtree, Tommy G. Crider, Delmar Dabney, Taylor Davis, Gaylon Echols, Dan R. Estes, Elmer D. Geesey, Mary Ellen Grell, Forest Hall, John Hammack, Jr., M. Isabelle Haupt, Joe Dee Kelly, Paul Killingsworth, Berent Knutsen, Lawrence R. Larson, Clifford E. Lewis, Daniel Livingston, Glyn Lowery, Jr., Dean McCormick, Dale M. Maw, Wesley Payne, Peter C. Peterson, Gene Ravan, David Reddout, Jerry R. Roberts, Daniel Roehl, Roy Sapp, Robert G. Slaton, Charles Snyder, Jerry Strandquist, Louis Walton, Alan E. Warneke, Troy B. Webb, Bobby J. Wilson, Robert A. Wine, Ernest Zilch

Operational Committees

Arrangements

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

Communications

Lee Shultz, coordinator; Melvin Snyder, Donald R. Upton

Coordinators

C. W. Denton, national coordinator for Convention Center; John V. Ohlin, national coordinator for hotels, meal functions, and receptions; Stanton Johnson, local coordinator

Communion Arrangements

Stanley V. Michael, chairman

Equipment

Arlyn Pember, national chairman; Ernest Rifenburg; Billy G. Cuneio, local chairman

Exhibits

Tom Sanders, national chairman; David Johnston; Frank Goss, local chairman

Photos

Richard Champion, chairman; Ann Floyd

Platform

Mel DeVries, chairman and coordinator; Calvin Durham, assistant platform coordinator; Lawrence B. Larsen, Lee Shultz

Platform Monitors

Silas L. Gaither, Theodore E. Gannon

Printed Materials

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

Program

Executive Presbytery

Program Advisory

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

Publicity

Juleen Turnage, national chairman; Richard Champion, Mel Surface; Dean Galyen, local chairman

Registration and Hospitality

Thomas M. Loven, national chairman; Jimmy V. Dunn, William G. Eastlake, John Maempa; John Wilson, local chairman

Reports

Lee Shultz, chairman; William G. Eastlake, Silas L. Gaither, Gwen Jones, Hardy W. Steinberg, Juleen Turnage

Resolutions and Reports Expediter

Hardy W. Steinberg

Transportation

Lamar Headley, national chairman; Melvin Sachs; Lester Shockley, local chairman

Ushers

Glenn A. Renick, Jr., national chairman; Evan Paul; Jack Borth, local chairman

Youth and Children's Activities

Jim McCorkle, national youth activities chairman; Terry Carter, Rick Olson, Brenton Osgood; Eric G. Olsen, local youth activities chairman; Ron Clark, national children's activities chairman; Gene Putnam, local children's activities chairman; Sandy Askew, national preschool children's activities chairman.

Greetings from Host District

Brother Zimmerman introduced W. Nelson Sachs, superintendent of the Southern Missouri District, the host district for the 39th General Council. In his greetings, Brother Sachs referred briefly to the early days of our Movement when the Assemblies of God headquarters was in St. Louis. It has been the location of several General Council meetings in subsequent years.

General Superintendent's Report

The general superintendent read his report, calling attention to corrected statements which show 329 churches opened in 1980 and an average of 273 churches per year in the 1976-80 calendar year period, compared to an average of 218 per year for the previous 5-year period (1971-75). In new churches opened, Gulf Latin American District ranked first, Puerto Rico third, and Pacific Latin American was one of two districts in fifth place in church planting, pointing up the phenomenal growth among the Spanish districts of our Fellowship.

Upon completion of the general superintendent's report, G. Raymond Carlson temporarily took the chair. He noted the evident blessing of God upon our Fellowship interwoven throughout the report.

A motion prevailed that the general superintendent's report be accepted with appreciation.

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 1979-81 *Biennial Report* booklet.

In referring to church membership, he indicated that for the first time we have now exceeded 1 million, with a total church membership of 1,064,490. The total number of adherents is 1,732,371.

A motion prevailed to receive the general secretary's report with appreciation.

General Treasurer's Report

The chairman asked Raymond H. Hudson to present the general treasurer's report as printed in the 1979-81 *Biennial Report* booklet. Brother Hudson asked that the World Ministries Giving diagram on page 8 be corrected from "Church School Literature" to "Schools and Colleges." He read the names of the 10 top districts and the 10 top churches in World Ministries Giving.

A motion prevailed to accept the general treasurer's report with appreciation.

Audit Report

The general treasurer gave an overview of the printed *Audit Report* for the fiscal biennium of April 1, 1979, through March 31, 1981. He stated that the total income for the fiscal year just completed was \$76,096,032, a 15.9 percent increase over the preceding year, with the greatest income being to foreign missions in the amount of \$39,532,412.

A motion prevailed to accept the financial report as contained in the printed *Audit Report* booklet and as highlighted by the general treasurer, with the understanding that if questions arose during the council session it would be appropriate to consider them.

Roster Committee Report

Brother Zimmerman introduced L. Jack Moore, pastor of Oak Grove Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, and chairman of the Roster Committee. Brother Moore presented the following report as of 2 p.m. on Thursday:

Ordained ministers	1,097
Delegates	319
Voting constituency	1,416
Licensed ministers	98
Visitors	1,122
Nonvoting constituency	1,220
Total	2,636

A motion prevailed to accept the Roster Committee report as given.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

The chairman instructed the body to read the divisional and departmental reports in the 1979-81 *Biennial Report* booklet, and if there were any questions they would be received at an appropriate time during the General Council session.

Recess

The Thursday afternoon meeting was recessed at 4 p.m. by singing the Doxology. Roy M. Chappell, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Church of God of America, one of the fraternal delegates previously introduced, dismissed in prayer.

THURSDAY EVENING—KEYNOTE RALLY

Assistant General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson was in charge of the Keynote Rally. The keynote message was brought by Thomas F. Zimmerman, general superintendent. The service began with a patriotic pictorial presentation, during which time vocalist Dale Schroeder of Waupaca, Wisconsin, sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America." Other special music was provided by the Sharrett Brothers of Leawood, Kansas; Tony Valenti of Langhorne, Pennsylvania; and David and LaDonna Weston of Springfield, Missouri.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 21

The Friday morning session began at 9:15 with a time of Prayer and Praise led by Owen C. Carr, president of Valley Forge Christian College. Song leader for this meeting was G. Edwin Loftin, and musicians were Mrs. Hazel Hoskins of Miami, Florida, at the piano and Dale Gaver, musician/evangelist of Dayton, Ohio, at the organ. Using appropriate Scripture readings and songs, Brother Carr led in prayer for: (1) Our land—its citizens who have sinned and need forgiveness; (2) Our leaders—not only the President, members of his cabinet, and the Supreme Court, but governors of our states, mayors of our cities, and those involved in making and enforcing laws; (3) One another—for those in prison, for those oppressed in other lands, for those sick in the session; (4) Laborers—the only prayer request Jesus made; for our Bible schools who train these laborers, for the ever-present financial need, for a sweeping revival; and (5) For this General Council that God will guide in its many far-reaching decisions.

While the offering was being received "Jubilation," a family musical group from Sedalia, Missouri, ministered, presenting a new song which had been written by one of its members especially for this General Council entitled, "God Omnipotent Reigns."

The general superintendent called the business session to order at

10:30 a.m. asking that Charles W. H. Scott, retired assistant general superintendent, lead in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

The chairman of the Roster Committee gave the following report as of 9:30 a.m. on Friday:

Ordained ministers	3,624	
Delegates	659	
Voting constituency		4,283
Licensed ministers	195	
Visitors	2,104	
Nonvoting constituency		2,299
Total		6,582

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

The general superintendent asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the Divisional and Departmental Reports. A motion prevailed to accept the reports as printed and distributed.

Report of Committee To Study General Presbytery Representation

An item of unfinished business from the 1979 General Council concerning General Presbytery representation had been referred to a study committee. R. D. E. Smith, chairman of the committee, read the report as follows:

The Committee To Study General Presbytery Representation received its assignment by referral of Resolution 6, which was presented to the 38th General Council in session at Baltimore, Maryland. As authorized, the Executive Presbytery appointed the committee which was comprised of two executive presbyters (one of whom is a pastor), two laymen, two district superintendents, and a college president.

Preliminary work was handled by correspondence. Study materials consisted of Resolution 6, its substitute resolutions, proposed amendments, and transcribed discussion relating thereto. Also, inasmuch as this subject had been discussed on numerous occasions both in General Presbytery and General Council sessions, excerpts of pertinent minutes were made available to the committee. A number of unsolicited communications from interested persons were also considered.

The committee met for interaction in January 1981 and preparation of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery is the official policy-making body of the General Council when the General Council

is not in session (General Council Constitution Article IX, Officers, Section 3, paragraph a); and

WHEREAS, The Constitution describes general presbyters as representatives for the Fellowship as well as of the Fellowship in areas defined as "respective fields"; and

WHEREAS, Local assemblies, comprised of laymen, are represented on the General Presbytery by three general presbyters, in whose selection lay delegates participate in each district; and

WHEREAS, The present numerical representation from the several districts has provided consideration for the interests and concerns of smaller districts within the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The organizational structure of the endorsed Assemblies of God colleges precludes General Presbytery representation as the ministry of a particular district, thus leaving the vital "field" of training future church leaders without General Presbytery representation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That each district shall continue to 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the presidents of endorsed Assemblies of God colleges be seated as members of the General Presbytery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph b, be amended by deleting the words "Executive presbyters" from the lead-in and substituting therefor the words "Ex officio members," and by adding the following as a second sentence: "The presidents of endorsed Assemblies of God colleges shall also be ex officio members of the General Presbytery" so that paragraph b will read as follows:

b. Ex officio members. All members of the Executive Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery. The presidents of endorsed Assemblies of God colleges shall also be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted. A question was raised concerning page 2, lines 8-11 of the report and if this eliminated the requirement that one be a pastor. Assurance was given that this requirement had not been disturbed.

Clarification was requested on page 2, lines 4-6, which states, "The organizational structure of the endorsed Assemblies of God colleges precludes General Presbytery representation as a ministry of a particular district." The chairman of the committee stated that nothing of that nature appears in the constitution and bylaws, but that it is a statement of judgment by the committee.

Attention was called to lines 1-3 on page 2 of the report concerning the interests and concerns of smaller districts and it was noted that

one of the major purposes for this being referred to a study committee was the feeling that the larger districts were not properly represented. Two questions were addressed to the committee: (1) Why does the committee feel that a larger representation from the larger districts is not necessary? and (2) Why does the committee feel we don't need a larger representation of pastors on the General Presbytery?

The chairman of the committee stated that this feeling was not unanimous on the part of the committee members, but the composite view was that our structure parallels closely with the structure of the United States government. The General Presbytery is like the Senate and the General Council is like the House of Representatives. In the General Council the larger districts have a preponderance of voting power, while in the General Presbytery all districts are represented equally. With reference to pastors, it was stated that while the constitution states that one member must be a pastor, there is nothing which precludes the district from electing two pastors if they wish.

A substitute motion was presented as follows:

RESOLVED, That each president of an endorsed college shall be granted the privilege of auditing the meetings of the General Presbytery, the cost of such attendance shall be borne by the institution of which he is president, and such shall have a voice, but no vote; be it further

RESOLVED, That in consultation with the secretary of the Education Department, two nominees shall be chosen among and by the college presidents for the purpose of electing one of them to the General Presbytery by the General Council in session. The general secretary shall be informed of such nominations not later than the close of the first day of business of the General Council in session; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the constitution shall be appropriately amended to reflect these changes.

Further discussion indicated there was a feeling that the committee report did not give sufficient detail to be fully responsive to its assignment. It was also stated that the qualification of the college presidents to be members of the General Presbytery was not the issue, but rather, the principle of representation, since this would be the first time there would be those serving on the General Presbytery who would not be responsive to a district council, the General Council, or a field fellowship.

A motion prevailed that the matter of General Presbytery representation be referred for further study to a new committee which will take into consideration the entire threefold assignment originally made, giving the rationale for its recommendations; and further, if the college presidents are to be represented, some system of determining how this would be done is to be provided. The committee is to report to the 1983 General Council.

A motion prevailed that the Executive Presbytery be empowered to appoint the committee and determine its size.

It was moved and seconded that this body favor the General Presbytery inviting the endorsed college presidents to audit the meetings of the General Presbytery until the matter of representation has been concluded. The chair ruled that the motion was too closely related to the subject referred for committee study and declared it an improper motion. He was sustained in his ruling.

Procedural Motion

A motion prevailed to set the first order of business of the afternoon session to begin the process of electing officers.

Recess

The morning session was recessed at 11:43 with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Philip Bongiorno, superintendent of the Eastern District.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 21

David L. Bemis led the congregation in singing several choruses. Brother Zimmerman referred to Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Prayer was requested for the Sundberg family in the passing of Lil Sundberg Anderson's mother. The general superintendent led in prayer and then asked L. E. King, long-time former pastor in Omaha, Nebraska, to continue in prayer.

Fred Lessten of the American Bible Society was introduced. He brought greetings and spoke briefly of the cooperation of the Assemblies of God in helping to provide Bibles in the languages of many people of the world.

Appreciation was expressed to Sarah Palser of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Berdie Kovacs of Ellendale, North Dakota, for their ministry at the piano and organ respectively. Albert and Nancy Perkins of Alliance, Ohio, full-time music ministers, sang "Praise the Lord, He Never Changes," for the offertory.

Introduction of Japan Assemblies of God General Superintendent

Brother Carlson escorted Masoyoshi Safu, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Japan, to the podium. Brother Zimmerman presented him a plaque to express appreciation for his attendance at the 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God. Brother Safu brought a message of thanks from Japan for the work of missionaries in his country. He presented a plaque from his organization expressing appreciation for the faithfulness of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in reaching to the uttermost parts of the earth with the gospel.

The chairman called the business session to order at 2:42 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

L. Jack Moore presented the report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m. Friday as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,915
Delegates	729
Voting constituency	4,644
Licensed ministers	221
Visitors	2,440
Nonvoting constituency	2,661
Total	7,305

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Procedural Motion

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

Election of General Superintendent

The general superintendent turned the chair to the assistant general superintendent during the election process for the office of general superintendent. The general secretary was asked to read the provisions for executive officers as outlined in the constitution and the bylaws. He read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Sections 1 and 2.

D. H. McLaughlin led in prayer for God's guidance upon the election. Brother Carlson gave instructions for casting the nominating ballot and the ballots were collected and the nomination declared closed. It was then pointed out that some had not included a first name or initials in casting their ballots. After some discussion and consultation with the parliamentarians, it was requested that this first ballot be destroyed. Another nominating ballot was distributed and the vote cast.

D. Fred Leader, Tellers Committee chairman, reported results of the nominating ballot for the office of general superintendent for a 4-year term as follows:

Ballots cast	2,496
Needed to elect	1,664
Thomas F. Zimmerman received	1,937

Brother Carlson declared Brother Zimmerman reelected on the nominating ballot.

The following is a list of all those nominated: Vernon Amsler 1, Charles Anderson 1, Donald Argue 1, A. Bartholomew 2, P. Bongiorno 1, R. E. Book 1, James Bridges 3, H. A. Brummett 1, G. Raymond Carlson 172, Owen Carr 6, Glen Cole 6, Randall Cole 1,

Charles Crabtree 4, Oliver Dalaba 1, James Dodd 3, Richard Dortch 276, David Flower 2, George Flattery 1, Richard Foth 4, Marvin Gorman 9, James Hamill 1, Lowell Harrup 1, Roy Harthern 4, Philip Hogan 6, D. V. Hurst 1, Gene Jackson 2, J. Foy Johnson 6, Paul Lowenberg 2, A. Parsons 1, E. Pope 1, K. Reneau 2, W. Sachs 2, R. Schmidgall 1, R. Spence 9, E. Stenhouse 19, K. Strader 1, J. Wilmoth 1, George Wood 1, Philip Wannenmacher 1, John Warren 1.

The chairman invited Mrs. Zimmerman and their daughter Betty, with her husband Paul Tinlin, to come to the platform. In his acceptance speech, Brother Zimmerman indicated that he had come to St. Louis with an open heart. He said in part: "I do not look upon this honor lightly. We have endeavored as best we could to serve the cause of Christ and particularly the fellowship of the Assemblies of God in such a way that would reflect glory to the name of the Lord. I cannot do less than say, by God's grace and His help, we will undertake to do what you have asked us to do."

With the family and members of the Executive Presbytery gathered around, Brother Carlson prayed for God's continued blessing to rest upon Brother Zimmerman and his wife and other members of the family. The chorus "God Is So Good" was sung while the brethren on the platform congratulated the reelected general superintendent.

Proposed Trip for General Superintendent and His Wife

A desire was voiced that Brother and Sister Zimmerman be sent on a trip to Switzerland at the expense of the General Council. Brother Carlson stated that the Executive Presbytery would take the request under advisement. In returning to the chair Brother Zimmerman said that this gesture was deeply appreciated.

Introduction of Resolutions Committee

The chairman introduced the members of the Resolutions Committee as follows: Bartlett Peterson, chairman; Charles Anderson, Philip Bongiorno, Fred Cottriel, Gordon Matheny, Derald Musgrove, Armon Newburn, Julie Ramirez, R. D. E. Smith, Paul Tinlin, Frank Trevino. He called for Bartlett Peterson to bring its report.

Resolution 1. Nominee for Honorary General Presbyter— Wayne H. Hemphill

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 1 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Wayne H. Hemphill has served the Kentucky District Council of the Assemblies of God as assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and in a number of other executive positions in the district, including 22 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, It is the expressed desire of the Kentucky District Council that recognition be given to his many years of faithful

service in accordance with the constitutional provision for honorary general presbyters, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That by an action to adopt this resolution, the General Council declares Wayne H. Hemphill elected as an honorary general presbyter.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 1.

Resolution 2. Nominee for Honorary General Presbyter— Wiley G. Hinecker

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Wiley G. Hinecker has served the Kentucky District Council of the Assemblies of God as superintendent, and in additional executive positions, including 21 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The Kentucky District Council desires that recognition be given to his many years of faithful service; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect Wiley G. Hinecker as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2.

Resolution 3. Southeastern Spanish District Council

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 3 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in its 1980 session authorized the forming of a district to be known as the Southeastern Spanish District Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The aforesaid district council was organized on the 30th day of January 1981; and

WHEREAS, There is need for including said district in the General Council Bylaws under Area Divisions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), page 83, titled *Area divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters*, be amended by adding Southeastern Spanish under the heading of Southeast Area.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3.

Resolution 4. Foreign Language Districts Area Designations

The Resolutions Committee chairman read Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, The various language branches have been granted the status of district councils; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws now make special and

separate provision for said foreign language districts for the function of electing nonresident executive presbyters; and

WHEREAS, It is therefore deemed proper to bring said districts into conformity with the recognition provided for district councils; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph (2), page 83, titled *Area divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters*, be amended by deleting lines 23 through 26 which presently state:

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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the following foreign language districts be added to the districts now listed under area designations in Article II, Section 2, paragraph (2), so that said foreign language districts will appear under the following areas:

Southwest Area: Pacific Latin American

South Central Area: Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American

Great Lakes Area: German, Midwest Latin American

Northeast Area: Italian, Spanish Eastern

Southeast Area: Southeastern Spanish

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4.

Resolution 5. Ministerial Credentials Terminations

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 5 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 7, pages 110 and 111, *Credentials Terminations*, needs further elucidation in line with current procedures; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That subheading a. *On the initiative of the minister by resignation*, be amended by deleting the words "by resignation"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That subheading b. *On the initiative of the district resulting from disciplinary action by dismissal* (cf. Article IX, Section 3) be amended by deleting the words, "resulting from disciplinary action by dismissal"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That paragraph (1) of Section 7. b. be amended by changing the subheading "dismissal" to *Dismissed*; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a new paragraph (2) be added to Section 7. b. as follows:

(2) *Inactive*. When a minister becomes inactive for two consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in Article

VII, Section 7. b. of the bylaws, his name shall be published as inactive in the ministers letter.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That a new paragraph (3) be added to Section 7. b. as follows:

(3) *Not renewed*. If in the opinion of the Credentials Committees a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, his name shall be published as not renewed in the ministers letter.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the present paragraph (2) under Section 7. b. be renumbered (4).

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 5.

Resolution 6. Ministerial Reinstatements

The Resolutions Committee chairman read Resolution 6 as follows:

WHEREAS, Clarification of the provisions for ministerial reinstatements is desirable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 15, page 120, be amended by the addition of the following paragraph a. to be placed immediately prior to the present paragraph:

a. A disciplined minister shall have the right to apply for reinstatement of his credentials, according to the provisions for such set forth in Article IX, A, Section 10. This provision shall apply to disciplinary action taken by either the General Council Credentials Committee or the General Presbytery, and also to action sustained by a trial.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the present paragraph become paragraph b. and be amended in line four by inserting the word *both* between the words "by" and "the" and by adding the words *and the General Council Credentials Committee* immediately after the word "officiary" so that the amended paragraph will read:

b. 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 both the district officary and the General Council Credentials Committee.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the present second paragraph be lettered c.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 6.

Resolution 7. Use of Assemblies of God Name by Churches

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 7. Following discussion, a motion prevailed to amend the first "resolved" by adding a third item: "To determine what avenues are open to us to prevent the use of the name *Assembly of God* or *Assemblies of God* by nonmembered churches."

It was moved and seconded to further amend Resolution 7 by deleting the words "General Presbytery" in the second "resolved" and substituting therefor the words *to the 1983 General Council*. An amendment to the proposed amendment was offered and with the agreement of the maker of the first motion and by common consent of the body, the following words were added to the end of the sentence: *following a progress report to the General Presbytery in 1982*. This motion was carried.

The motion to adopt Resolution 7 as twice amended was carried. The resolution as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, An increasing number of Assemblies of God congregations are renaming their churches; and

WHEREAS, Many new congregations are coming into being; and

WHEREAS, The phrase "Assembly of God" or "Assemblies of God" is not being used in whole or in part as the name of many churches; and

WHEREAS, There is no reference to the congregations' association with the Assemblies of God, either on signs, in local newspapers, or public advertising in many instances; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the chairman appoint a committee to study:

1. The reasons why the association with, or reference to, the name *Assemblies of God* is not being used;
2. To determine why some pastors and congregations feel that using the name *Assemblies of God* is a disadvantage; and
3. To determine what avenues are open to us to prevent the use of the name *Assembly of God* or *Assemblies of God* by nonmembered churches.

And be it further

RESOLVED,

1. That the study committee recommend measures toward solving any problems if facts indicate that they do exist; and
2. Such recommendations shall be presented to the 1983 General Council for action deemed appropriate, following a progress report to the General Presbytery in 1982.

Resolution 8. Petition Provision for Organizational Assistance to Assemblies

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 8 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Our decisions are made on the basis of a majority rule; and

WHEREAS, The present bylaw as stated in Article VI, Section 4, paragraph c, page 93, does not recognize the desire of the majority of the members of a church but only of a 20 percent minority; and

WHEREAS, In small congregations one family could initiate intervention proceedings; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 4, paragraph c, of the bylaws be amended by deleting the words "20 percent" and inserting the words *a majority* so that the passage will read:

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 a majority of the voting members.

During the discussion of the motion to adopt the resolution, it was pointed out that this subject had been considered at the 38th General Council in Baltimore and it would seem good judgment to let it stand for a longer period of testing time.

The motion to adopt Resolution 8 was lost.

Resolution 9. Organizational Assistance Scriptural Principles

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 9 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Scriptures have set forth principles for settling disciplinary or disruptive procedures; and

WHEREAS, We believe the Scriptures to be the final word of authority in such matters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VI, Section 4, paragraph c, page 93, be amended by the addition of the following:

Before intervention procedures are initiated, scriptural principles should be followed (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Timothy 5:19).

The motion was seconded but after brief discussion, the motion was lost.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. by the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Charles Anderson, pastor of Calvary Temple, Seattle, Washington.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 21

The Friday evening service was under the direction of J. Foy Johnson, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area. Lee Shultz,

national director of the Division of Communications, gave the Scripture reading. Lena Mae Leach of Mansfield, Ohio, served at the piano and Paul Cope, professor at Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, served at the organ. Frank Martin, pastor of Evangel Temple, Montgomery, Alabama, was the speaker for the service which had the theme "God Omnipotent Reigns—in Our Homes." Special music for the service was provided by the choir from First Assembly of God, Belleville, Illinois; Walter Mills, Arlington, Texas; Leah and Rachelle Shows, Springfield, Missouri; and Brent Reynolds, Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri. During the evening service the pioneer ministers were given special recognition.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 22

General Council Prayer Breakfast

The General Council Prayer Breakfast was held in the Stouffers Riverfront Towers ballroom on Saturday, August 22, at 7:30 a.m. The theme of the breakfast was, "I Will Pray." The theme was divided into 4 subpoints and prayers were offered in each area. The first, "I Will Pray . . . for My Home," was by Mrs. Agnes Hurst. The second, "I Will Pray . . . for My Home Church," was carried by John Slye, a layman from Arlington, Virginia. Prayer for the third point, "I Will Pray . . . for My Homeland," was led by Chaplain Marvin Snyder. The fourth point, "I Will Pray . . . for God's Harvest," was by Delmer Guynes, coordinator of Assemblies of God China ministries.

The speaker for the breakfast was Mrs. Alice Reynolds Flower. She stressed the Bible as "the best prayer book." Music was provided by "Big" John Hall of Fort Worth, Texas, and Cyril and Beth McLellan of Springfield, Missouri. The benediction was the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" by the entire group.

Saturday Morning Business

The morning business session began with the singing of a number of choruses led by David Bemis. Musicians for the session were Terry MacAlmon, Bloomington, Minnesota, pianist; and Mrs. Marge Ferrin, San Jose, California, organist. Charles Crank, superintendent of the Indiana District Council, led in prayer for many needs indicated by raised hands. Special prayer was offered for Murray Brown, veteran missionary, who was in very critical condition. Terry MacAlmon ministered in song for the offertory.

Roster Committee Report

L. Jack Moore, chairman of the Roster Committee, brought the following report as of 10 a.m. on Saturday:

Ordained ministers	4,204
Delegates	777
Voting constituency	4,981

Licensed ministers	243
Visitors	2,730
Nonvoting constituency	2,973
Total	7,954

A motion prevailed to accept this progress report.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

Ballots were cast for the election of an assistant general superintendent for a 2-year term.

The chairman recognized D. Fred Leader, chairman of the Tellers Committee, who reported the results of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent as follows:

Ballots cast	1,404
Needed to elect	936
G. Raymond Carlson received	1,189

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

The following is a list of all those nominated: Edgar Allen 1, D. Annas 2, J. K. Bridges 3, P. Bongiorno 1, R. J. Carlson 2, Owen Carr 1, Glen Cole 2, R. E. Cottle 1, Charles Crabtree 2, Charles Crank 4, Robert Cunningham 1, Richard Dortch 124, Silas Gaither 1, T. E. Gannon 2, Marvin Gorman 2, K. C. Grams 1, J. Hamill 4, Merle Harris 1, Roland Hastie 1, David Krist 1, E. J. Kumpe 2, Gene Jackson 1, J. Foy Johnson 3, Clarence Lambert 1, Paul Lowenberg 10, D. H. McLaughlin 1, Dan Norman 1, Ronald Pennington 2, Bartlett Peterson 2, Kermit Reneau 1, Edward Roush 1, William Sachs 3, E. Stenhouse 7, Robert Schmidgall 1, T. H. Spence 2, R. D. E. Smith 3, Karl Strader 1, A. Ullestad 1, W. Vickery 9, Phil Wannenmacher 1, Roy Wead 1, Bert Webb 2, Joseph Wilmoth 1, Bobby J. Wilson 1.

Resolution 10. Nomination and Election of Executive Presbyters

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 10. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 10 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend page 2, lines 3 and 4, and lines 13 and 14, so it will read "two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected district official."

A question was raised if assistant superintendents would be prohibited from serving in this office, since they are elected officials and yet in many instances not full-time. To clarify the amendment, it was suggested that the words "full-time" be inserted so the amendment will read "two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official." By common consent it was agreed that this change should be made.

A motion to amend the amendment was made and seconded that after the words "two ministers from its district," the words "one of

whom is not an elected full-time district official" be deleted to remove any qualifying statement as to a particular kind of ministry. This motion was lost.

The motion to amend by deleting the words "one of whom shall be a pastor," and substituting "one of whom is not an elected full-time district official" was voted upon and declared carried.

The motion to adopt Resolution 10 as amended was carried. Resolution 10 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The next decade could bring about significant changes in executive leadership, and it therefore appears that it would be desirable for the options for selection of such leadership to be enlarged by providing for a broader slate of nominees for the offices of nonresident executive presbyters; and

WHEREAS, The bylaws of the General Council make provision for considering for the offices of nonresident executive presbyters only those who have been nominated by districts; and

WHEREAS, The executive leadership of the General Council tends to come from the ranks of the Executive Presbytery although the constitution and bylaws do not prescribe this; and

WHEREAS, It appears to be desirable for a broader age group of men to be considered for the Executive Presbytery, from whose ranks future executive leadership might be selected; and

WHEREAS, There is a tendency, for various reasons, for districts to nominate their superintendents, with some districts having provided in their bylaws for the superintendent to be nominated which condition tends toward limitation of the spectrum of views represented at the Executive Presbytery level; and

WHEREAS, There is need to provide opportunity for placement of persons on the Executive Presbytery who are familiar with various phases of church work, life, and concerns and who are currently involved therein; and

WHEREAS, It is not wise to limit nominations to any particular group of ministers, but to open the process of selection to all ordained ministers, trusting in the Lord's guidance; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 2, paragraph c (1), pages 82 and 83, of the General Council Bylaws be amended by deleting the words "one minister" in line six, and by replacing these with *two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official*, and by deleting the words "a nominee" in line eight and replacing these with *nominees*, so that the paragraph shall read:

(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 two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and to elect.

Resolution 11. Composition and Election of Executive Presbytery

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, The historical perspective of the Assemblies of God is that of a cooperative fellowship, made up of local congregations and ministers; and

WHEREAS, Five of the present 13 executive presbyters, by virtue of their office, do not represent an area or a local church, but rather carry the burden of the Movement in general; and

WHEREAS, The trend of the Movement is to achieve a grass roots approach to church government; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. *Officers*, Section 2. *Executive Presbytery*, paragraph a, page 78, which now reads:

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.;

be amended to read:

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 *who are currently serving in the Fellowship as pastors or district officers* 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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article II. *Election of Officers*, Section 2. *Nominations and Elections*, paragraph c, pages 82 and 83, of the bylaws which now reads:

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.;

be amended to read:

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. The General Council shall recess on the first full day of business at 11 a.m. for the convening of a caucus for each of the eight areas required to nominate an executive presbyter for election by the General Council. The general secretary shall present the names submitted by the district councils of each area. From the names thus received the caucus shall place one name in nomination to present to the General Council for election. In the event the caucus is unable to present one name in nomination after five ballots, the two names receiving the highest number of votes shall be presented to the General Council for election. A two-thirds vote shall be required both for the nomination by the caucus and the election by the General Council.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11 be adopted. The chairman called attention to the fact that this resolution, if adopted, would involve a constitutional change and would thus require a two-thirds majority vote.

A motion prevailed to amend Resolution 11, taking into account the action just taken in Resolution 10 to include any changes required to bring this document into harmony. This effected a change in the second sentence of Bylaws Article II, Section 2, c. (1) *Nominations and elections*, substituting the words, "two ministers from its district, one of whom is not a full-time district official to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area," for the words, "one minister from its district to be presented to the General Council as a nominee from its area."

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the entire proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2, paragraph c. (1) of the bylaws.

Election of General Secretary

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the report of the nominating ballot for the office of general secretary as follows:

Total votes cast	1,462
Needed to elect	975
Joseph R. Flower received	1,313

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

The following is a list of all those nominated: Joe Adams 4, Charles Anderson 1, Donald Annas 2, Donald Argue 1, John Arnold 1, C. E. Bell 1, P. Bongiorno 1, James Bridges 2, R. Carlson 1, E. M. Clark 1, Glen Cole 1, M. Cudmore 1, Richard Dortch 24, Warren Flattery 1, David Flower 5, T. E. Gannon 1, James Griggs 2, Clifford Hobson 1, Philip Hogan 2, Raymond Hudson 52, J. Foy Johnson 2, Ralph Kay 1, Fred Leader 1, Ron Loy 1, C. S. Marshall 1, Frank Mays 1, E. Moen 1, Derald Musgrove 1, Dan Norman 1, Arthur Parsons 1, Roger Perkin 1, Bartlett Peterson 11, T. Burton Pierce 1, Kermit Reneau 1, William Sachs 1, R. D. E. Smith 1, Wesley Smith 1, E. Stenhouse 1, W. Vickery 10, S. Walegir 1, O. Wegner 1, Flower 3.

Introduction of Assistant General Superintendent

The chairman requested the reelected assistant general superintendent, G. Raymond Carlson, to address the General Council. In response to his reelection, Brother Carlson stated that from his parental home he received a motto for life, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And that became the motto of his home when he married, along with Philippians 1:21, "To live is Christ." He stated that the Fellowship had been extremely kind to him throughout his years, and he could not express in the time available what the Assemblies of God means to him. He expressed appreciation for the vote and asked for the prayers of the Fellowship.

Introduction of General Secretary

The chairman requested the reelected general secretary, Joseph R. Flower, to address the General Council. In responding to his reelection, Brother Flower stated that it humbled him greatly to realize that he has the confidence of his brethren. He stated that it is a privilege to serve God first, and in serving God to serve His people, "And that's what I pledge to you I will do to the best of my ability in the years that lie ahead, should Jesus permit. I want you to pray for me."

Election of General Treasurer

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

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	1,577
Needed to elect	1,052
Raymond H. Hudson received	1,542

Upon hearing the report of the Tellers Committee, the chairman declared Raymond H. Hudson reelected to the office of general treasurer, having received more than the two-thirds vote required.

The following were write-in nominees: Joe Adams 1, A. Bartholomew 1, C. E. Bell 1, P. Bongiorno 1, Richard Dortch 3, David Flower 1, J. R. Flower 1, Obie Harrup 1, E. J. Kumpe 1, Fred Leader 1, L. Nipper 1, Dan Norman 1, Arthur Parsons 2, Bartlett Peterson 1, Richard Peterson 1, Herman Rohde 1, Fred Smolchuck 2, E. Stenhouse 1, W. Vickery 8, S. Walegir 1, E. T. Watkins 1, Hudson 3.

Resolution II. Composition and Election of Executive Presbytery (continued)

An amendment to the amendment was moved and seconded, deleting only the last five sentences of the proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2, paragraph c. (1) of the bylaws, which related to a caucus.

A point of order was called for concerning the amendment and the amendment to the amendment, suggesting that an amendment was not necessary if the motion is defeated. In conference with the Parliamentary Committee, it was agreed that this interpretation was correct. That being the case, the chair ruled that the motion before the house was to adopt Resolution 11.

A motion prevailed that the body accept the chairman's interpretation and his decision.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m. with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Lester Kenney from Seattle, Washington.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 22

The Saturday afternoon session opened with Edwin Loftin leading in the singing of several choruses. Mrs. Freda Vanzant, wife of Pastor Clinton Vanzant of Northland Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri, and Miss Lottie Riekehof of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C., ministered at the organ and piano respectively. Prayer was requested for Rex Humbarb's mother who was very ill. Bob Hoskins, president of Life Publishers International, led in prayer in her behalf and for the business of the afternoon.

Thomas F. Zimmerman introduced a number of delegates from other countries and presented plaques to them as a memorial of the occasion. He was assisted by J. Philip Hogan, executive director of

Foreign Missions, and G. Raymond Carlson. Those so honored were Errol Bhola, general superintendent of the Guyana Assemblies of God, Guyana, South America; Aime Blanc, representing the Assemblies of God of France; Abel Cruz, general superintendent of the El Salvador Assemblies of God, El Salvador, South America; and Teofilo Aguillon, general superintendent of the Mexico Assemblies of God.

John Wannenmacher, pastor of Calvary Assembly of God, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, played "Arioso," a sacred composition by J. S. Bach, for the offertory. He was accompanied on the piano by his sister, Mrs. Lois Graber of Canton, Ohio, and on the organ by Mrs. Berdie Kovacs of Ellendale, North Dakota.

The business session was called to order at 2:34 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

L. Jack Moore presented the report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m., Saturday, as follows:

Ordained ministers	4,262
Delegates	785
Voting constituency	5,047
Licensed ministers	260
Visitors	2,811
Nonvoting constituency	3,071
Total	8,118

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

The general secretary read the bylaws provision for the nomination and election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. He 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.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the first elective ballot:

Ballots cast	1,503
Needed to elect	1,002
J. Philip Hogan received	1,378

The chair declared that J. Philip Hogan was reelected executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions on the first elective ballot.

The following were write-in nominees: Jim Bakker 1, Earl Book 1, R. Champion 1, G. Cole 1, Norman Correll 4, Fred Cottriel 4, Maurice Cudmore 2, Robert Cobb 2, Don Corbin 3, T. Cunningham 1, George Davis 1, Charles Denton 1, J. Dodd 2, Richard Dortch 9, T. E. Gannon

1, Charles Greenaway 9, Delmer Guynes 6, Jose Giron 1, James Hance 1, J. H. Harrup 1, Bob Hoskins 1, Raymond Hudson 1, J. P. Hudson 1, Wesley Hurst 8, Ronald Iwasko 3, Foy Johnson 1, Sam Johnson 4, Charles Kelley 1, Joseph Kilpatrick 2, Paul Lowenberg 1, Ed Nelson 2, Steven Norman 1, A. Parsons 1, R. Peacock 1, R. Perkins 4, Bartlett Peterson 2, Sam Peterson 1, K. Reneau 1, H. Rosenberg 2, W. N. Sachs 1, C. E. Simpson, Jr. 2, E. Stenhouse 3, O. Swaim 1, K. Tinch 1, C. Traub 2, L. Triplett 9, Van Dolsen 1, W. Vickery 1, W. Weekley 1, J. Wilkins, 3, M. Williams 8, D. Womack 1, Hogan 1.

Brother Hogan was introduced and in his acceptance he noted that this was the 11th time the General Council had summoned him to this mandate. He stated in part: "This is not necessarily a vote for me, but a vote for a very wonderful team, without which the Division of Foreign Missions would not be even a shadow of what it is today. . . . We are related to 108 countries of the world, . . . and God in His marvelous way helps us to move into the opportunities that are ours today. I would request, above everything else, that you continue to pray for me and the staff that God will make us equal to the opportunity. Thank you."

Resolution 11. Composition and Election of Executive Presbytery (continued)

The chairman reminded the body that Resolution 11 was before them with the corrections made by the adoption of Resolution 10.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11 be tabled. The motion was lost.

A motion was presented to delete everything but the preamble in the original motion and substitute the following: Resolved, that the nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery may be elected to that office for a maximum of three consecutive 2-year terms.

In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that many of the boards provide for a rotation of personnel and that possibly there should be a provision for transition of membership on the Executive Presbytery.

A question was raised if the proposed substitute resolution would prevent a person from ever serving on the Executive Presbytery again after having served three consecutive 2-year terms. The chairman noted that the wording does not state he could ever serve again. The maker of the proposed substitute resolution explained that it was his intent that although the member could not immediately serve another term, he would be eligible again at a later time.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11 be referred to a special study committee that would be charged with studying this matter and all of its ramifications thoroughly, and that a report be presented to the 1983 General Council.

The motion to refer Resolution 11 to a committee was lost.

The chairman again read the substitute motion which was still under consideration. The proposed substitute resolution was lost.

It was moved and seconded that debate be limited to 2 minutes for each speaker and a total of 15 minutes on the subject. The motion to limit debate was lost.

A question was raised if it would be in order to refer Resolution 11 to a study committee inasmuch as the motion to refer was previously defeated. In consultation with the parliamentarians, the chair ruled that the earlier motion was broader than what is now under consideration.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11, as it stands and is presented to us now, be referred to a special committee made up of a large number of people from a broad area to study the feasibility as well as the logistics of how changes can be made and adapted, with particular reference to the proposed caucus in a large General Council session, and that this matter be presented to us in our next General Council session with recommendations for our consideration.

In response to a question, the chair stated that Resolution 10 has been adopted, and it becomes a guideline for nominations for the office of nonresident executive presbyters at the next General Council.

The motion to refer was carried.

The chairman requested definition as to how the committee is to be appointed.

It was moved and seconded that a broadly based committee of 12, geographically representative of our constituency, be appointed by the Executive Presbytery from among people present in this General Council who heard the discussion. The motion was carried.

After further discussion, it was requested that the minutes reflect the instruction to insert the words, "and that Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery members as well as pastors be included on this committee."

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

Ballots for the election of the executive presbyter from the Northwest Area were distributed and the general secretary read the list of nominees.

D. Fred Leader read the report of the first elective ballot as follows:

Total votes cast	1,460
Needed to elect	974
E. D. Beard	81
Raymond E. Book	349
Robert L. Brandt	627
Frank N. McAllister	269
Darrell Redfearn	86
Homer B. Walkup	48

Inasmuch as there was no election, a second ballot was cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second elective ballot:

Total votes cast	1,107
Needed to elect	738
E. D. Beard	13
Raymond E. Book	201
Robert L. Brandt	826
Frank N. McAllister	51
Darrell Redfearn	9
Homer B. Walkup	7

Robert L. Brandt was declared elected to the office of executive presbyter from the Northwest Area on the second elective ballot.

Introduction of General Treasurer

The chairman congratulated Raymond H. Hudson upon his reelection to the office of general treasurer. Brother Hudson responded by stating in part: "I want to thank you from the depth of my heart for the confidence you have expressed in returning me to this most responsible position. I want to give recognition to a very faithful staff in the Division of the Treasury who make every effort to serve you well in a way well-pleasing to the Lord. Thank you."

Resolution 24. Nominee for Honorary General Presbyter—Robert E. Goggin

Bartlett Peterson read the following resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert E. Goggin has given a total of 33 years of service to the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God as secretary-treasurer and as superintendent; and

WHEREAS, A total of 33 years has been served as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, He has contributed generously to the success and progress of the Assemblies of God; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That upon the request of the Oklahoma District Council and the recommendation of the General Presbytery, this General Council declare Robert E. Goggin elected as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions therefor as stated in the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 25. Nominee for Honorary General Presbyter—Earl G. Vanzant

Bartlett Peterson read the following resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Retiring district superintendent, Earl G. Vanzant, has served the New Mexico District Council for 41 years in the capacities of district Christ's Ambassadors president, district Sunday school director, sectional presbyter, assistant superintendent,

Home Missions director, Foreign Missions director; and as district superintendent for the last 13 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a general presbyter for 28 years, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That pursuant to the request of the New Mexico District Council and the recommendation of the General Presbytery, he be hereby declared elected as honorary general presbyter in accordance with the provisions of the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:54 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology. C. T. Beem of Springfield, Missouri, gave the prayer of dismissal.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 22

The theme of the Saturday evening service was: "God Omnipotent Reigns—in Our Lives." Richard Dortch was the chairman for the service. David Wilkerson, founder and president of Teen Challenge, Inc., New York City, was the speaker for the service. The Scripture reading was given by Silas Gaither, national director of the Division of Church Ministries. Congregational singing was led by David Bemis. Paul Ferrin, minister of music, Bethel Assembly of God, San Jose, California, served at the piano and his wife Marge was at the organ.

Special music for the service was provided by Dale Schroeder, music evangelist from Waupaca, Wisconsin; "Scepter," a musical group from the David Wilkerson Crusades; and David Giammona, music evangelist, Sacramento, California.

World Ministries Giving awards were presented by Raymond H. Hudson, and special recognition was given to Johnnie Barnes, founder of the Royal Rangers program, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 23

Joseph R. Flower was in charge of the Memorial and Communion Service which began at 9:45 a.m. N. D. Davidson, executive presbyter from the Northwest Area, read the Scripture. Music was provided by Sam Peterson, pastor of the Assembly of God, Brookfield, Wisconsin. The speaker for the service was Raymond H. Hudson, general treasurer. Dan Smith, minister of music, Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, served at the piano, and Gwen Jones, organist at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, played the organ. The L. B. Larsen family of Springfield, Missouri, presented the offertory.

In Memoriam

Joseph R. Flower requested the congregation to remain seated in prayerful meditation during a visual presentation of the names of deceased ordained ministers, accompanied by vocal selections by Lucretia Shaw, minister of music, Carbondale Assembly of God, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the General Secretary's Office to March 31, 1981:

Ahlberg, Edna O. (Mrs.), Philippines
Allen, Dick L., La Grande, Oreg.
Allen, Luther C., Tulsa, Okla.
Andrews, Frank, Shreveport, La.
Argue, Zelma E. (Miss), Santa Rosa, Calif.
Atwell, Fred A., Oakland, Calif.
Baker, Ralph E., Eagle Point, Oreg.
Ball, Tommy Ruth (Mrs.), San Marcos, Tex.
Ballas, Jules, San Antonio, Tex.
Balsom, Rudolph F., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
Banning, Ross J., Arkadelphia, Ark.
Bates, Corby L., Collinsville, Ill.
Bennett, Bon D., Taft, Calif.
Bentley, Aloha C. (Mrs.), Spearman, Tex.
Blair, John W., Barberton, Ohio
Blodgett, Marvin D., Bakersfield, Calif.
Bogue, Joseph A., San Jose, Calif.
Bost, O. L., Richmond, Mo.
Bowden, Fred C., Atkins, Ark.
Brooks, Clara M. (Mrs.), Temple Terrace, Fla.
Brown, Bessie B. (Mrs. J. L.), Milton, Fla.
Brown, Herbert W., San Jose, Calif.
Brubaker, Thomas R., Springfield, Mo.
Buck, Roland H., Boise, Idaho
Buntain, E. Kathleen, Tacoma, Wash.
Burris, Edwin, Fort Smith, Ark.
Burris, Zelma N. (Mr.), Springdale, Ark.
Butterfield, Charles E., Jr., Kirkland, Wash.
Buttrum, Jeff H., La Grange, Ga.
Cagle, Floyd H., Morgan Hill, Calif.
Calabrese, Joe, Bartlesville, Okla.
Calaway, Agee G., Jasper, Tex.
Carlquist, Marie (Miss), Oroville, Wash.
Carriker, Theodore R., Macon, Mo.
Carter, Edmon B., Sylacauga, Ala.
Cash, Clark, Lebanon, Tenn.
Cason, Honor E., Coushatta, La.
Casper, Lyle L., Idaho Falls, Idaho
Catterson, Mabel G. (Mrs. O. A.), Lake Ariel, Pa.

Chaney, James J., Togo, West Africa
 Christian, Thomas R., Grand Junction, Colo.
 Clevenger, Alvin L., Excelsior Springs, Mo.
 Collins, Dexter E., Fairmont, Minn.
 Combs, Ervin H., Arlington, Tex.
 Comer, Jimmie A. (Mrs.), Jenks, Okla.
 Concilio, Paul G., Houston, Tex.
 Copeland, John D., Rock Hill, S.C.
 Corona, Michael M., Dunmore, Pa.
 Cortez, Benjamin N., Pomona, Calif.
 Coursey, Norman E., Alvin, Tex.
 Crawford, Earl, Vader, Wash.
 Cronin, Myrna C. (Mr.), Costa Mesa, Calif.
 Cruz, Josue, San Antonio, Tex.
 Curry, Paul, Sacramento, Calif.
 Curtman, William F., Eldon, Mo.
 Daniels, Alberta (Mrs.), New Braunfels, Tex.
 Daugherty, Henry, Mountain Grove, Mo.
 Davis, Ferrell D., Fort Worth, Tex.
 Davis, Julious P., Davis, Okla.
 Dawson, Joe D., Longview, Wash.
 Dawson, Nataline F. (Mrs.), Lufkin, Tex.
 Dedelow, Irene N. (Mrs.), Springfield, Mo.
 Denning, Oliver D., Treece, Kans.
 Dodd, Berl, Tulsa, Okla.
 Dodge, Leroy K., East Rochester, N.Y.
 Dollar, Hetty (Mrs. F.), Ontario, Calif.
 Dotson, Curtis C., Colorado Springs, Colo.
 Drake, William V., Decatur, Ill.
 Duncan, Harold L., Lodi, Calif.
 Duracher, Alton L., New Orleans, La.
 Eaton, J. S., Pomeroy, Wash.
 Elliott, Brooks, Livingston, Tex.
 Ezell, Henry C., England, Ark.
 Fagerstrom, Evangeline (Mrs.), Stockton, Calif.
 Failoni, Michael J., Uhrichsville, Ohio
 Ferguson, D. Ernest, Longview, Tex.
 Ferguson, Nan D. (Mrs.), Farmerville, La.
 Foreman, Zoetta (Mrs.), Moran, Kans.
 Frandsen, Valborg, Springfield, Mo.
 Fulford, James H., Johnstown, Colo.
 Fuller, Henry S., Conroe, Tex.
 Gabler, Martin P., Sr., Spring, Tex.
 Galvan, Rosalio, Stockton, Calif.
 Gamez, Fred, Saginaw, Mich.
 Garland, Iva M. (Mrs.), Hayward, Calif.
 Gilber, Marcus S., Griffin, Ga.
 Gilmore, Fannie B. (Mrs.), Tucson, Ariz.

Ginn, Mildred K. (Miss), Carlsbad, Calif.
 Godwin, James W., Mobile, Ala.
 Good, Cecil M., Carson, Calif.
 Goodwin, James R., Longview, Tex.
 Goossen, A. B., Reedley, Calif.
 Goss, James A., Jackson, Ga.
 Grau, Minnie A. (Mrs.), San Antonio, Tex.
 Greisen, V. G., Augusta, Kans.
 Hager, L. Gerald, Springfield, Mo.
 Hale, Homer P., Live Oak, Calif.
 Hale, Jean C. (Miss), West Prestonsburg, Ky.
 Haley, W. Thomas, Pillager, Minn.
 Hall, Barney R., Pulaski, Ill.
 Hall, Leon D., Portland, Oreg.
 Hamilton, Harold A., East Peoria, Ill.
 Hannan, Glen W., San Jose, Calif.
 Hannan, Goldie M., San Jose, Calif.
 Harmon, Charles E., California, Mo.
 Harris, Wilburn, Turlock, Calif.
 Harry, William M., Lamesa, Tex.
 Hart, Ilar (Mrs.), San Antonio, Tex.
 Hartsfield, Ira M., Tallahassee, Fla.
 Hartz, Marvin D., Tulsa, Okla.
 Hasch, Deforest L., Glendale, Calif.
 Hady, Thomas C., Centerville, Mo.
 Henriksen, Ingvald M., Seattle, Wash.
 Herman, George A., Tallmadge, Ohio.
 Herrera, Jake, Monterey Park, Calif.
 Hill, Harold E., Williamsburg, N. Mex.
 Hodges, Serena M. (Miss), Salem, Oreg.
 Hollingsworth, Ansel D., St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Holt, Claud E., Jr., Big Spring, Tex.
 Homer, Cyril E., Santa Ana, Calif.
 Hudson, Mary E. (Miss), La Belle, Mo.
 Hutsell, Robert G., Gallatin, Mo.
 Iannettoni, Luigi, Solvay, N.Y.
 Jackson, Charles H., Lakeside, Mont.
 Jennison, Eva M. (Mrs. E. V.), Sunnysvale, Calif.
 Johnson, Antonette O. (Mrs.), Everett, Wash.
 Johnson, Roy T., Franklin Lakes, N.J.
 Johnson, Wilmer J., Washougal, Wash.
 Johnston, Gracie M. (Mrs.), Seguin, Tex.
 Johnston, T. O., Waxahachie, Tex.
 Jones, Charles E., Dayton, Ohio
 Jones, Paul V., Greeley, Colo.
 Keck, John H., Lavaca, Ark.
 Keizer, Nelly (Mrs.), Paramount, Calif.
 Kendrick, Raymond, Clarksville, Ark.

Kenedy, Early G., Stockton, Calif.
 Kennedy, Roy L., Rison, Ark.
 Kern, William E., Chico, Calif.
 Kesler, William H., Neosho, Mo.
 Kimmel, Samuel P., Nicholson, Pa.
 King, Otha L., Ozark, Ark.
 Kiser, George W., Boise, Idaho
 Klaus, Edward J., Petaluma, Calif.
 Krouse, Violet A., Carrabelle, Fla.
 Lamb, W. Ross, Salem, Oreg.
 Lasaracino, Domenick, Miramar, Fla.
 Law, William H., Austin, Tex.
 Lazar, Albert, Wilmington, Del.
 Lebeck, Clarence E., Fresno, Calif.
 Leib, Curtis E., Phoenix, Ariz.
 Leggett, Estelle (Mrs.), Houston, Tex.
 Lemberg, O. W., Jr., Janesville, Wis.
 Lewis, Calvin M., Mexia, Tex.
 Lewis, Gayle F., Springfield, Mo.
 Little, George O., Cookeville, Tenn.
 Livers, Christopher W., Wheatland, Wyo.
 Logue, A. Darrell, Killeen, Tex.
 Lo Presti, Salvatore, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Lowe, Minnie E., Visalia, Calif.
 Lowther, Willa B. (Miss), Storm Lake, Iowa
 Lucas, James H., Galveston, Tex.
 Lymburner, Robert C., Romney, W. Va.
 McFee, Caleb C., Irving, Tex.
 McAlister, Martha E., (Mrs. E.), Ozark, Ark.
 McCown, Nathan G., Willis, Tex.
 McCown, Robert R., Ellendale, N. Dak.
 McKnight, Ardell, Louisville, Ala.
 McLamore, Leonard R., Houston, Tex.
 Martin, Charlie, Tulsa, Okla.
 Martin, Oscar R., Terrebonne, Oreg.
 Martin, Samuel E., Fred, Tex.
 Martinez, Ysidro R., Los Angeles, Calif.
 Massey, Chester L., Kansas City, Mo.
 Matolina, Joseph J., Sr., Bethpage, N.Y.
 Mattox, Carlos L., Green Forest, Ark.
 May, Thomas E., Bloomington, Calif.
 Messer, Peter L., Blakely, Ga.
 Miner, John C., Houston, Tex.
 Mitchell, George H., Walla Walla, Wash.
 Mitchell, Guy E., Clearwater, Fla.
 Moore, Ernest L., Castle Rock, Wash.
 Morar, John, Jr., Beaver Falls, Pa.
 Morris, William H., Woodlake, Calif.

Murphy, Thelma M. (Mrs.), Springfield, Mo.
 Musgrove, James B., Wichita, Kans.
 Myers, Jacob P., Lakin, Kans.
 Neal, Herbert O., Terre Haute, Ind.
 Nelson, Albrum T., Dallas, Tex.
 Olson, B. C., Park Rapids, Minn.
 Opdenhoff, Edward S., Johnstown, Pa.
 Opie, William E., Fresno, Calif.
 Orcutt, Bill G., Junction City, Oreg.
 Osborne, George M., Dade City, Fla.
 Overman, Viola P. (Mrs.), Excelsior Springs, Mo.
 Owens, Leslie L., Angels Camp, Calif.
 Padilla, Martin, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 Palmer, Harvard H., Aurora, Colo.
 Pencovic, Herman B., Oakland, Calif.
 Perkin, Noel, Springfield, Mo.
 Perkins, Artemus C., Excelsior Springs, Mo.
 Peter, Simon J., Shady Point, Okla.
 Peterson, Clarence R., Santa Cruz, Calif.
 Pettenger, Edgar D., Springfield, Mo.
 Pettit, A. J., Canyon, Tex.
 Pierce, Cecil F., Tulsa, Okla.
 Poag, Floyd L., Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Poulin, Dena B. (Mrs.), Yakima, Wash.
 Prather, Dorothy E. (Mrs. F. W.), Salina, Kans.
 Price, Jewel A. (Mrs.), Los Angeles, Calif.
 Price, Loranzo D., Springdale, Ark.
 Pyland, Velma (Mrs.), Columbus, Ind.
 Ramby, Charles E., Saratoga, Tex.
 Ready, Ethel (Mrs.), Lakeland, Fla.
 Reed, Myrtle (Mrs.), Newbern, Tenn.
 Richardson, Herman E., Pleasant Hill, Mo.
 Robbins, Thomas J., Philadelphia, Miss.
 Robeck, Edward O., Stockton, Calif.
 Roccaforte, Vincent, Houston, Tex.
 Rockholt, W. W., Phoenix, Ariz.
 Rogers, Glenn, Payette, Idaho
 Rogers, J. Irwin, San Jose, Calif.
 Rowlett, Henry A., Prescott, Ariz.
 Rugwell, Homer F., Hilo, Hi.
 Rupp, Roy E., Tacoma, Wash.
 Ryan, Helen S. (Mrs. H. I.), Cheney, Wash.
 Samartzis, George J., Oakland, Calif.
 Sampson, Virgil E., Scottsdale, Ariz.
 Sanchez, Miguel A., Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
 Sanks, Clem, Bay Minette, Ala.
 Sasse, Melvin, Hobbs, N. Mex.
 Sasser, Tinnie M. (Mrs.), Elba, Ala.

Scaggs, John W., Kingsburg, Calif.
 Schiavone, Salvatore, Scranton, Pa.
 Schmidt, August W., Hemet, Calif.
 Scott, Sara L. (Mrs. G. D.), Highland, Calif.
 Shelton, Anna (Mrs.), Garden City, Kans.
 Shepherd, Nellie (Mrs.), Trenton, Mo.
 Simons, Dude H., Fort Worth, Tex.
 Skelton, John H., Gastonia, N.C.
 Skinn, Lily M., Winter Park, Fla.
 Slaughter, Charles M., Nampa, Idaho
 Smith, Eunice L., Portland, Oreg.
 Smith, Grace P., Eagle Lake, Fla.
 Smith, Marion J., Seattle, Wash.
 Smith, Walter E., Portland, Oreg.
 Snelgrove, Harold J., Newfoundland, Canada
 Snyder, Eugene N., La Mesa, Calif.
 Solmes, Walter H., Rockford, Ill.
 Sparks, Richard M., Whitney, Tex.
 Spencer, Raymond, Van Buren, Ark.
 Spencer, Willard J., Rancho Cordova, Calif.
 Splawn, Grover C., Godley, Tex.
 Steele, Pauline, Fayetteville, Ark.
 Stephens, Rilla M. (Mrs.), Salem, Oreg.
 Stitt, Eunice P. (Mrs.), Hastings, Mich.
 Stone, Jesse, Richland, Mo.
 Storms, Levi L., Pineville, N.C.
 Summers, Hermione D. (Mrs.) Eight Mile, Ala.
 Surratt, Ennice L., Carlinville, Ill.
 Sutherland, George P., Sr., Taylorville, Ky.
 Tagliere, Pasquale, Grants Pass, Oreg.
 Tanner, Elmer L., West Monroe, La.
 Templeton, C. Ollen, Ethel, Mo.
 Thomas, Floyd W., Moss Beach, Calif.
 Thomas, Starland W., Sonora, Calif.
 Thompson, Gilbert T., Canon City, Colo.
 Uhlma, Werner, Portland, Oreg.
 Vancil, Henry C., Walnut Creek, Calif.
 Vanzant, William A., Carlsbad, N. Mex.
 Virgin, L. Blanche (Miss), Dexter, Mo.
 Vlahakis, Demosthenes D., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Waggoner, George B., Springfield, Mo.
 Waggoner, Kathryn E. (Mrs.), Springfield, Mo.
 Wainwright, Alton B., Jacksonville, Fla.
 Waldron, John R., Independence, Mo.
 Walker, Harry R., Thedford, Neb.
 Walker, Hovis C., Splendora, Tex.
 Walters, Theodore A., Pensacola, Fla.
 Walton, Clive L., Ward Cove, Alaska

Warner, Verne A., Miami, Fla.
 Weeks, Elmer E., Lufkin, Tex.
 Wharton, Paul, Quincy Ill.
 White, Noice L., Bellaire, Tex.
 White, Richard D., Belleville, Ill.
 Wiggins, Barron L., Houston, Tex.
 Wilkinson, Clayton E., Bagdad, Fla.
 Williams, James, Tulsa, Okla.
 Willis, Lora (Mrs.), Luling, Tex.
 Winters, F. Gerald, Burdett, Kans.
 Witt, Ronald F., Lubbock, Tex.
 Wood, A. Elizabeth (Mrs. G. R.), Redlands, Calif.
 Worley, Ernest C., Covington, Tenn.
 Wulff, Lydia L. (Miss), St. Charles, Mo.
 Ybanez, Librado, Bloomington, Tex.
 Zarnow, Fred, Bastrop, Tex.
 Zercher, R. H., San Antonio, Tex.

The following names of deceased ordained ministers which had been reported to the General Secretary's Office after April 1, 1981, were also included in the visual presentation.

Arnold, Carl A., Cantonment, Fla.
 Austin, Arthur A., White Cloud, Mich.
 Baker, Travis F., Nocona, Tex.
 Bedwell, William W., Jasonville, Ind.
 Bevill, Daisy D. (Mrs.), Springfield, Mo.
 Boyd, Jesse F., Humphrey, Ark.
 Boyles, William H., Miles City, Mont.
 Brooks, Ruby L. (Mrs.), Wyandotte, Okla.
 Burk, Andrew J., Mount Vernon, Mo.
 Caldwell, William A., Tulsa, Okla.
 Clement, James A., Shreveport, La.
 Cossey, Olen F., Watonga, Okla.
 Covington, Robert L., Muncie, Ind.
 Crawford, Donald D., North Little Rock, Ark.
 Davis, Leslie E., Yakima, Wash.
 Draper, Elmer T., Thousand Oaks, Calif.
 Fowler, Jessie E., Mountain View, Ark.
 Giardella, Joseph, East Boston, Mass.
 Hampton, Millard B., Locust Grove, Ga.
 Hargis, Raymond M., Tulsa, Okla.
 Henderson, Eula E. (Mrs.), Rock Island, Ill.
 Hodge, Ben D., Sr., El Paso, Tex.
 Hoffman, Euris E., Byars, Okla.
 Hudson, Edna M., Quincy, Ill.
 Ingram, Noel R., McKinleyville, Calif.
 Jaco, Golda M. (Mrs.), Elvins, Mo.
 Keller, Charles H., Airville, Pa.

Kenyon, Nelson J., Lakeland, Fla.
 King, Leroy, Cullen, La.
 Kingsriter, Orrin A., La Mirada, Calif.
 Kirschke, William E., Rosenberg, Tex.
 Lackey, Edward E., Greenville, Ill.
 Lewis, Daniel D., Tyler, Tex.
 Longdin, Wilfred E., Knoxville, Iowa
 McGowan, Samuel H., Blakely, Ga.
 McWhirt, Oscar F., Martinville, Ind.
 Mallough, Don, Toledo, Wash.
 Melson, C. W., Ozone, Ark.
 Mills, Jesse J., Jasper, Tex.
 Moore, James A., Fort Smith, Ark.
 Orphan, Frank, Flushing, N.Y.
 Pate, Mrs. J. G., Houston, Tex.
 Penny, James H., Paragould, Ark.
 Pepper, Charles, Napa, Calif.
 Price, Alvin W., Avon, N. C.
 Reilly, Robert T., Marion, N. C.
 Russell, W. Roscoe, Bloomington, Ind.
 Sandefer, Charles H., Fresno, Calif.
 Schmidgall, Kenneth J., Jerseyville, Ill.
 Shook, Charlotte (Mrs.), Carson, Calif.
 Smith, William L., Alief, Tex.
 Spotts, Charles A., Pleasant Hill, Mo.
 Swain, Henry A., Springfield, Mo.
 Teichman, Herman S., Irving, Tex.
 Tucker, John I., Hapeville, Ga.
 Unruh, Carolyn (Mrs.), Springfield, Mo.
 Westbury, S. Joseph, Jenkinsburg, Ga.
 Wooldridge, J. Haskell, Ashford, Ala.

General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman presided over the Communion Service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery. During the serving of the Communion, special music was provided by Don and Faith Dunlop, music evangelists from Dallas, Texas.

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 23

“God Omnipotent Reigns—in the World” was the theme for the evening vesper service. The Scripture for the service was read by T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions. The speaker for the service was J. Philip Hogan, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. Special music was provided by the choir from Calvary Temple, Springfield, Illinois, and Vocalist Lillie Knauls of Sacramento, California. Kenton Lee, minister of music, First Assembly of God, San Diego, California, served at the piano and Mrs. Barbara Hardcastle, pastor's wife, Evangel Temple, Kansas

City, Missouri, played the organ. A special plaque of recognition was presented to the former superintendent of the Mexico Assemblies of God, Guillermo Fuentes. John Polizzi, pastor of Christian Fellowship Center, Troy, Illinois, and Tom and Ann Dresselhaus of San Diego, California, presented the offertories for the service.

MONDAY MORNING—AUGUST 24

The Monday morning Prayer and Praise Hour was conducted by President Richard Foth of Bethany Bible College. He opened the service with the reading of Psalm 104 and led the assembled group in singing several hymns and choruses, interspersed with prayer and the reading of Scripture. Musicians for the service were Mrs. Beth Grant, wife of David Grant, missionary evangelist to India, pianist, and Dan Wood, pastor of Bethel Assembly of God, Perrysburg, Ohio, organist. Bob Smith, music evangelist from Austin, Minnesota, ministered in singing “He Is the Cornerstone” while the offering was being received.

Brother Zimmerman announced that word had just been received of the homegoing of veteran missionaries Anna Tomaseck and Murray Brown. David Nyien of Taiwan led in prayer for their loved ones, for other needs, and for the remaining sessions of the General Council, praying first in Chinese and then in English.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

Ballots were distributed for casting the first ballot for executive presbyter of the Southwest Area. The general secretary read the list of nominees.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the following results of the first elective ballot cast for the office of executive presbyter from the Southwest Area:

Total votes cast	964
Needed to elect	643
W. Earl Cummings	126
Victor DeLeon	41
Donald I. Farmer	115
Roy Sapp	126
Everett Stenhouse	324
William O. Vickery	232

Since there was no election, a second ballot was cast for this office.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the results of the second elective ballot as follows:

Total votes cast	1,175
Needed to elect	784
W. Earl Cummings	43
Victor DeLeon	18
Donald I. Farmer	28
Roy Sapp	61

Everett Stenhouse	751
William O. Vickery	274

There being no election, the third elective ballot was cast.
The Tellers Committee chairman reported the results of the third elective ballot as follows:

Total votes cast	1,413
Needed to elect	942
W. Earl Cummings	19
Victor DeLeon	1
Donald I. Farmer	18
Roy Sapp	23
Everett Stenhouse	1,194
William O. Vickery	158

Noting that Everett Stenhouse had received well above the two-thirds vote required, the chair declared him elected as executive presbyter from the Southwest Area.

Roster Committee Report

The chairman of the Roster Committee presented the following report as of 10 a.m. on Monday:

Ordained ministers	4,280
Delegates	790
Voting constituency	5,070
Licensed ministers	273
Visitors	5,608
Nonvoting constituency	5,881
Total	10,951

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

The chairman called upon the general secretary to read the nominations received from the North Central Area. The first elective ballot was cast.

D. Fred Leader presented the following results of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the North Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,220
Needed to elect	814
Harley W. Olsen	79
S. H. Petersen	103
A. W. Pettet, Sr.	62
Herman H. Rohde	174
Allen Ullestad	67
Roy Wead	662
James D. Wilkins	73

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was distributed and cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot:

Total votes cast	1,457
Needed to elect	971
Harley W. Olsen	36
S. H. Petersen	67
A. W. Pettet, Sr.	18
Herman H. Rohde	206
Allan Ullestad	22
Roy Wead	1,080
James D. Wilkins	28

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

Sponsorship Policy Regarding Resolutions

The chairman read from the Bylaws, Article IX, Section 4 (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." He requested that this procedure be observed in the presentation of further resolutions.

Introduction of Robert L. Brandt

The general superintendent called upon Robert L. Brandt, newly elected executive presbyter for the Northwest Area, and superintendent of the Montana District, to speak. In responding to his election, Brother Brandt stated that in the early days of his ministry he had been led of the Lord away from the possibility of an independent ministry into the work of the Assemblies of God, and he has never regretted that decision. He said, "I owe a great debt to the Assemblies of God. Above all I owe a great debt to the Lord himself, but also to this great organization which has given me a platform upon which I could express myself in the interest of His kingdom. I am deeply humbled over the fact that you have so generously thought upon me to elect me to this high office in our organization. I will serve Him and you to the best of my ability, seeking always to honor Him and to bring blessing into the midst of our great Movement."

Procedural Motion

A procedural motion was presented requesting that Resolution 20 be considered. The motion was lost.

Comments from N. D. Davidson

N. D. Davidson, executive presbyter from the Northwest Area who had requested that his name not be considered for reelection, was

asked to speak. He expressed appreciation for the confidence that had been placed in him in electing him to serve for the past 23 years as an executive presbyter and as a member of the General Presbytery since 1941. "It's been a great honor and a pleasure to serve in this capacity and to serve you and our wonderful Lord."

**Resolution 26. Nominee for Honorary
General Presbyter—N. D. Davidson**

A request was received to consider Resolution 26 as the next item of business. Hearing no objection, the chairman requested that Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 26. He read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, N. D. Davidson has served the General Council of the Assemblies of God with distinction as pastor, district presbyter, district secretary, and district missionary secretary; and as district superintendent of Arizona as well as district superintendent of the Oregon District for 20 years; and as a member of the Board of Directors of Central Bible College, Northwest College, Bethany College, Canyonville Academy, and the Assemblies of God Graduate School; and as a member of the national Home Missions Board and Foreign Missions Board; and as a member of the General Presbytery from 1941 to 1981; and as an executive presbyter of the General Council for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, The Oregon District has recommended that the name of N. D. Davidson 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 N. D. Davidson as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 26.

**Resolution 31. Nominee for Honorary
General Presbyter—Kermit Reneau**

A request was received to consider Resolution 31 as the next item of business. Hearing no objection, the chairman requested that Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 31. He read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Kermit Reneau has served the General Council as an assistant general superintendent and the South Texas District of the Assemblies of God as district superintendent for 18 years, and has served the General Council as a general presbyter for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, In positions of leadership Kermit Reneau has rendered invaluable and distinguished Christian service; and

WHEREAS, The Twenty-ninth South Texas District Council in session, April 23, 1981, recommended his nomination to the office of honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, the General Presbytery recommends to the General Council the election of Reverend Kermit Reneau as honorary general presbyter.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 31.

Procedural Motion

A motion to consider the resolutions in sequential order as printed was lost.

Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

The general secretary read the list of nominees for executive presbyter from the South Central Area, and the first elective ballot was cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot:

Votes cast	1,423
Needed to elect	949
E. R. Anderson	126
James C. Dodd	149
J. W. Farmer	107
Paul Lowenberg	908
Kermit Reneau	133

There was no election, and a second ballot was cast.

D. Fred Leader gave the report of the second elective ballot as follows:

Votes cast	1,243
Needed to elect	829
E. R. Anderson	36
James C. Dodd	66
J. W. Farmer	25
Paul E. Lowenberg	1,078
Kermit Reneau	38

The chair declared Paul E. Lowenberg, executive presbyter for the South Central Area, reelected on the second elective ballot.

Resolution 12. Terms of Executive Officers

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 12, and moved its adoption, as follows:

WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been marked by exemplary leadership throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, This God-given talent has been expressed most effectively through the office of general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship is blessed with many men of diverse leadership abilities who would contribute a freshness in exchange of ideas and philosophy; and

WHEREAS, The regular succession of leadership provides the impetus of continual growth and creative ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship is deserving of such breadth of counsel; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph 2. Officers and terms of office, page 78, shall be amended by adding the following sentence:

An executive officer shall not be elected for more than two terms in succession.

Before a second was received, a motion was made and seconded objecting to the consideration of Resolution 12. The chairman indicated that this procedural motion is only debatable as to its propriety and will require a two-thirds vote to be carried. The chair further clarified the matter by stating that an affirmative vote means there will be no subsequent vote on Resolution 12. The vote was taken by a show of hands, then by standing. The chairman requested a division of the house, so there would be no confusion on the matter. The vote was as follows: affirmative, 633; opposed, 727. The motion was declared lost.

It was moved and seconded to refer Resolution 12 to the same committee studying Resolution 11 for a report and recommendation to the next General Council. The motion was lost.

A substitute motion was made and seconded to amend Article IX, Section 1 (a) to read, "The term of office for the general superintendent shall continue for 6 years or until his successor qualifies, and the terms of office for all others shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify."

Recess

A motion to convene at 1 p.m. was lost.

The morning session was recessed with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by Mrs. Opal Reddin from Springfield, Missouri.

MONDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 24

The Monday afternoon session opened with Ed Loftin leading in singing "I Will Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving," "With My Hands Lifted Up," and "Jesus, There's Just Something About That Name." Mrs. Jane Harris, wife of Pastor Jim Harris of the Assembly of God Church in Half Moon Bay, California, and Mrs. Clare Rose, pastor's wife of Park Crest Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, ministered at the piano and organ, respectively.

Prayer was requested for Evangelist Gail Copple of Sacramento, California, who had suffered a fall and is paralyzed from the waist

down, and for Ed Loftin's family in the passing of his 95-year-old grandmother. Brother A. G. Richards, general treasurer of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, led in prayer for these needs.

While the offering was received the Jones Sisters, students at Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, sang "Thank Him for the Things He's Done," an original composition by their accompanist, Pam Mitchell.

Julie Ramirez, pastor of Faith Temple Assembly of God, Hartford, Connecticut, and a member of the Resolutions Committee, led in prayer for God's guidance on the business session.

The chairman called the business session to order at 2:25 p.m.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

The general secretary read the list of nominees for executive presbyter received from the Great Lakes Area. The first elective ballot was cast.

The Tellers Committee chairman presented the results of the first elective ballot as follows:

Votes cast	1,460
Needed to elect	974
Charles E. Crank	116
Richard W. Dortch	1,038
James C. Ellis	20
Ivar A. Frick	104
Hugh H. Rosenberg	138
Irvin G. Steiding	44

The chairman declared Richard W. Dortch reelected executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area on the first elective ballot.

Roster Committee Report

L. Jack Moore gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m. Monday:

Ordained ministers	4,305	
Delegates	791	
Voting constituency		5,096
Licensed ministers	273	
Visitors	5,624	
Nonvoting constituency		5,897
Total		10,993

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

A motion prevailed to close the roster following an opportunity to register during the Monday evening rally.

A special motion prevailed to express appreciation to the Roster Committee for their excellent performance.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

The general secretary read the names of the nominees for executive presbyter from the Gulf Area, and the first elective ballot was cast.

D. Fred Leader presented the results of the first elective ballot as follows:

Votes cast	1,189
Needed to elect	793
Marvin E. Gorman	697
James E. Hamill	313
Merle J. Harris	63
F. L. Langley	21
William N. Sachs	95

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second elective ballot:

Votes cast	1,337
Needed to elect	892
Marvin E. Gorman	1,172
James E. Hamill	118
Merle J. Harris	16
F. L. Langley	2
William N. Sachs	29

The chair declared that Marvin Gorman had received more than a two-thirds vote and was therefore the newly elected executive presbyter for Gulf Area.

Resolution 12. Terms of Executive Officers (continued)

After consultation with the parliamentarians, the chairman advised that the substitute motion was not a proper one for two reasons. First, it was a substantive change in the notification sent to the members of the General Council. Second, it would be an amendment to the constitution and such amendments are much more carefully defined as to procedure. He read again the proposed substitute motion and stated it was a decided departure from the thrust of the resolution mailed to the constituency. The chair therefore declared that the motion before the house was the motion to adopt Resolution 12.

Upon voting, the motion to adopt was declared lost.

Privileged Motion

A privileged motion prevailed that, starting with the next resolution presented, the names of the sponsors would be read, and at subsequent General Councils the names of the sponsors would be named in the printed resolutions mailed prior to General Council sessions.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

The general secretary read the names of the nominees for executive presbyter from the Northeast Area, and the first elective ballot was cast.

D. Fred Leader read the results of the first elective ballot as follows:

Votes cast	1,192
Needed to elect	795
Philip Bongiorno	198
Adolfo Carrion	35
Hugh M. Corey	80
Samuel DiTrollo, Sr.	22
John G. Leardi	11
John J. Paproski	99
R. D. E. Smith	629
Howard Spruill	118

Inasmuch as there was no election, a second ballot was cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee read the results of the second elective ballot as follows:

Votes cast	1,213
Needed to elect	809
Philip Bongiorno	137
Adolfo Carrion	8
Hugh M. Corey	16
Samuel DiTrollo, Sr.	10
John G. Leardi	1
John J. Paproski	23
R. D. E. Smith	995
Howard Spruill	23

The chair declared that R. D. E. Smith had received more than a two-thirds vote and was therefore reelected executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

Resolution 13. Residency Requirements for Ordination Applicants

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 13, stating that it had originated from the General Secretary's Office, as follows:

WHEREAS, Certain portions of Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c. (5), page 96, under *Exceptions to residency requirement*, actually pertain to *Residency requirements of applicants* under paragraph (4); and

WHEREAS, There is a need to strengthen the residency requirements of the districts for ordination; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c. (4) and (5), be amended by adding the first two sentences of paragraph (5) to paragraph (4) and by amending the second sentence to read:

If the applicant has not been a member of the district where he applies for ordination for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district in which he was previously licensed, as well as the district of his residence.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the word "resided" in line four of present paragraph (5) be changed to *been a member* and that the word "They" in paragraph (4) be changed to *Applicants*, and that the word "licentiate" be changed to *licensed minister*, making Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c. (4) and (5) read:

(4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he is seeking ordination at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the district where he applies for ordination for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district in which he was previously licensed, as well as the district of his residence.

(5) *Exceptions to residency requirements.* 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.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13.

Resolution 14. National Women's Ministries Committee

Brother Peterson read Resolution 14, stating that it had originated from the national director of the Division of Church Ministries and the Women's Ministries Department, as follows:

WHEREAS, A change in the bylaws of the Women's Ministries Department would serve to facilitate its work and aid in its development, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article XIII, Section 4, paragraph b. (2), page 129, *National Women's Ministries Committee*, be amended by deleting the entire paragraph (2) which reads:

(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;

and by substituting the following:

(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 and the secretary of the department by virtue of office; two other persons from within the department recommended by the department secretary to represent Women's Ministries and its auxiliaries; and four representatives from the field who represent the areas of Women's Ministries, all of whom shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 14.

Greetings from Everett Stenhouse

Everett Stenhouse, Southern California District superintendent and newly elected executive presbyter, representing the Southwest Area, was introduced. He stated in part: "In expressing to you my sincere thanks, I pledge to you the expenditure of my energies to the best welfare of my church family. I want you to know I have the deepest love and respect for the elected officials of our organization. I have loved them for years, and I look forward to working with them. Finally, Brother Dwight McLaughlin has been a close personal friend to me for half my life, and I count it a high honor to follow him in this position. Thank you."

Expression from Dwight H. McLaughlin

The chair invited Dwight H. McLaughlin, retiring executive presbyter from the Southwest Area, to speak from his heart. He recalled that 27 years ago when Brother Zimmerman was elected an assistant general superintendent he came in behind him as a nonresident executive presbyter. He was appreciative for having had the privilege of sitting beside him. "I want to thank this General Council and, if it were possible, the past 14 General Councils for the confidence they placed in me. I most certainly want to salute my own district superintendent whom you have chosen as my successor in this post. May the Lord bless you each one, and thank you so much."

Resolution 35. Nominee for Honorary General Presbyter—Dwight H. McLaughlin

The secretary of the Southern California District requested that Resolution 35 to honor Dwight H. McLaughlin be considered and

that the district have the privilege to move its adoption. Brother Peterson read Resolution 35 as follows:

WHEREAS, The ministry of Dwight H. McLaughlin has encompassed 50 years of service to the Assemblies of God, including 30 years of pastoral work, 10 years as a district presbyter, and 7 years as superintendent of the Northwest District; 20 years as a member of the Board of Directors of Northwest College, 18 years as a member of the Board of Directors of Central Bible College, service as one of the original members of the Board of Directors of Evangel College and of the Assemblies of God Graduate School; 7 years of service as nonresident executive presbyter from the Northwest Area; 20 years as nonresident executive presbyter from the Southwest Area; and chairman of the Radio Commission when the *Revivaltime* broadcast originated on the ABC network; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery of the Southern California District has taken cognizance of his long service as a general presbyter as more than qualifying him as a nominee for honorary general presbyter in accordance with the provision of the General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Dwight H. McLaughlin be declared elected as an honorary general presbyter.

Leonard Nipper, secretary of the Southern California District stated, "It is a privilege and an honor on behalf of the Southern California District to move the adoption of Resolution 35."

The motion was seconded and carried.

Recognition of Mrs. Edgar Bethany

The chairman announced that Mrs. Edgar Bethany, the widow of a long-time executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, was present. She was asked to stand for recognition.

Resolution 15. Equal Rights Amendment

Brother Peterson stated that Resolution 15 had originated from Pastor Warren Combs of Nampa, Idaho. He read the resolution and moved its adoption as follows:

WHEREAS, Our government and legislative officials seek to learn the will of the people in order to decide how to vote on legislation which will affect those to whom they are responsible; and

WHEREAS, We constitute a large body of people who will be affected by these laws; and

WHEREAS, Existing federal laws guarantee equality of opportunity in all areas such as employment, education, and credit; and

WHEREAS, We recognize men and women as equally important before God, but that a strict constitutional amendment requiring

equality between the sexes at all times does not respect the biological, emotional, and other differences between male and female; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Equal Rights Amendment would transfer enormous new powers to the federal government from the states; and

WHEREAS, The amendment does not contain proper provision to preserve protective legislation for women to require fathers to be responsible for family support, to exempt women from the draft and combat duty; and

WHEREAS, The time limit for expiration has been designated as June 30, 1982; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we oppose the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution as it now reads; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the rescinding of ratification in the states where it has already been ratified; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose an extension of the time limit for ratification.

The motion to adopt the resolution was seconded.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting lines 21 and 22 which state: "RESOLVED, That we urge the rescinding of ratification in the states where it has already been ratified; and be it further." After some discussion, the motion to amend was lost.

Concern was expressed lest the General Council involve the church in politics. It was then moved, seconded, and carried to table the issue.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

The chairman called upon the general secretary to read the nominations received for executive presbyter from the Southeast Area. The first elective ballot was cast.

D. Fred Leader presented the following results of the first elective ballot:

Votes cast	1,325
Needed to elect	884
Charles H. Cookman	68
Robert J. Gatlin	61
J. Foy Johnson	931
Vaudie V. Lambert	156
Aaron M. Wall	109

The chairman declared that J. Foy Johnson had received more than the two-thirds vote required for election, and he was therefore reelected executive presbyter from the Southeast Area on the first elective ballot.

Appreciation to the Tellers Committee

D. Fred Leader expressed appreciation to the Tellers Committee captains: Donald E. Annas, Bruno Glodkowski, Darwin Heuser, and John Hammack, Jr., who replaced Brother Heuser when he was obliged to leave early. He thanked also the corps of dedicated tellers who served the floor. "This crew has worked diligently, efficiently, and accurately, and I would thank them for the great support they have provided the chairman of this committee."

Expression from Roy H. Wead

The chair invited Roy H. Wead, the reelected executive presbyter from the North Central Area, to respond to his election. He spoke briefly stating that years ago when he was in his 20s he was elected district superintendent for the Indiana District and consequently served on the General Presbytery. "I questioned the Lord about this process of election. It seemed there were so many things that were subject to chance and circumstances. But I began praying about it and looking into my Bible, and I came across this Scripture: 'The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.' It consoled me then; it consoles me now. Thank you very much."

Expression from Richard W. Dortch

Richard W. Dortch, the reelected executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area, responded to this election by referring to the problems we face today. "We don't have the answers for them, but 'if God be for us, who can be against us?' He is for us and He is going to help us. My prayer is that God will help me simply to be a better Christian. Before Jesus comes we're going to come back to basics. I pray the Spirit of God will guide and lead my life. Thank you for your kindness."

Expression from Paul E. Lowenberg

The reelected executive presbyter from the South Central Area, Paul E. Lowenberg, responded to his election by noting that he fulfilled part of last Saturday's discussion: "I'm from the grass-roots level. My roots may not be in the Assemblies of God, but they are in the grace of God. By His goodness and mercy, He permitted us to find fellowship in the Assemblies of God. Four years ago yesterday, we laid upon you the burden of our hearts, the very probable loss of our son's leg or his life. Across the nation the Assemblies of God joined us in prayer and faith. I'm happy to tell you the last report from the cancer and tumor clinic is that there's not a sign of cancer. He is as well as he has ever been and can do anything he has ever done. The fellowship of those prayers and expressions of love and concern has made us undying devotees of the fellowship of the Assemblies of God. Thank you, and God bless you."

Expression from R. D. E. Smith

Responding to his reelection as executive presbyter from the Northeast Area, R. D. E. Smith stated that immediately after a Sunday afternoon old-fashioned tarrying meeting, when he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, he attended the first street meeting he had ever seen or paid any attention to. "As we stood there listening to people testify suddenly I felt a hand in the middle of my back, and somebody shoved me 10 feet out in front of everybody. It was my dad, and I was out there to testify. I don't know what I said, and I don't suppose it amounted to much, but afterward he gave me this bit of wisdom: 'When somebody asks you to do something for the Lord, no matter what it is, never say no.' That became a philosophy with me, and since that time I have accepted what people have asked me to do as the will of God. Thus, I accept as the will of God what you have so graciously done here. I'll do my best. I'll pray for you, and you pray for me."

Expression from Marvin E. Gorman

Marvin E. Gorman, newly elected executive presbyter for the Gulf Area, expressed himself in part as follows: "It's a very humbling feeling to be chosen to serve in any capacity by those you love, appreciate, and respect. I had no religious background, and it was the most awesome feeling in my life the first time I went before the executive brethren for credentials. To be received by them, and treated as I was, gave me courage, confidence, and assurance to go on. That's what the Assemblies of God fellowship has done for me over the years." He gave tribute to the general superintendent and to James E. Hamill who, because of his life and standards, had made a tremendous contribution to his own life. "You have honored me, I am grateful to you. Thank you for letting me be a part of you, and now I thank you for letting me serve in this capacity."

Expression from James E. Hamill

The chair invited James E. Hamill to express himself. He was received by a standing ovation. He responded in part by saying: "I was licensed to preach at 17, ordained at 19, served as a sectional presbyter at 20, as district secretary at 22, and as general presbyter at 23. I was elected to the General Presbytery in 1936 and served only one term and changed districts. In 1946 I was returned to the General Presbytery in my present district, and I have had these wonderful years there. Ten years ago at General Council I was elected to the Executive Presbytery. I have always felt the Assemblies of God has done more for me than I deserved. No greater honor has ever come to me than to serve this body on the Executive Presbytery, and I thank you for permitting me to do so. Then I want to thank you for electing Marvin Gorman. I love and respect him, I know what he is, and he will be a great executive presbyter. God bless everyone of you."

Expression from J. Foy Johnson

In response to his reelection as executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, J. Foy Johnson said in part: "Thirty-eight years ago as a young Nazarene evangelist, God baptized me in the Holy Spirit. In May I married my wife who was reared in an Assemblies of God home, and in June I received my first credentials with the Assemblies of God. It is a great Fellowship, and I appreciate the privilege of serving in many capacities. As an executive presbyter I want to do my best to represent this Movement well and to work with my brethren. Until now I've been the junior member of this wonderful group; now there are some newer than myself. God bless you for allowing me to serve for a while longer."

Spiritual Life Committee Report

The chairman asked for the privilege of interrupting the remainder of the Resolutions Committee Report in order to bring "what I consider one of the most important reports that will come to us, the report of the Spiritual Life Committee."

Hardy W. Steinberg, national director of the Division of Christian Education, served as secretary for the committee, and he was asked to read the report.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report of the Spiritual Life Committee with a great deal of thanks to the committee members.

A motion prevailed to amend the third sentence of the middle paragraph on page 2 of the report by inserting the words *witness of* before the word "entrance," so that the sentence will read: "Water baptism is not the prize at the end of a well-lived Christian life; it is the witness of entrance into the Christian life of which we are not worthy."

The chairman indicated that this report would be printed in the *Pentecostal Evangel*.

A motion prevailed to further amend the report by deleting the words "lone rangers" in the next to last sentence of the next to last paragraph on page 3 of the report and substituting therefor the words *independent individuals*.

The motion to accept the report of the Spiritual Life Committee as twice amended was carried by a unanimous vote.

The report as amended follows:

Through its history the Assemblies of God has sought to be a present-day expression of the Early Church—continuing in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers; witnessing the Lord adding daily to His church and confirming His Word with signs following.

Whatever development and growth we have enjoyed is the result of the Lord's grace coupled with human obedience to His will. We give praise to the Lord for His goodness to us!

Because of the nature of a report such as this, time does not

permit a complete or detailed review and prospectus for the past and forthcoming bienniums. Rather, the Spiritual Life Committee individually and collectively has sought to know what the Holy Spirit would have us say to this General Council.

People of prayer

God is calling us to be a *people of prayer*. Prayer brings fellowship with God, the shaping of our character after His, a seeing of others through His eyes. A minister may preach a great sermon and yet have sin in his life. A singer may inspire through the ministry of music and yet have sin in his life. But a man or woman who prays is cleansed from sin and walks with God in purity and holiness. Prayer purifies and empowers.

The Spirit moves in individuals and congregations who seek and long for Him. We need the Lord, not just the latest method. Without prayer we may end up with the embarrassment of having lovely new wineskins, but no wine.

Through prayer we are not just God's servants, keeping commands; but God's friends, having meaningful fellowship with Him. While the great majority of our ministers and churches report fruitful ministries, some indicate that in the past year none or very few were converted, baptized with water, or received the baptism in the Spirit. Prayer saves us from barrenness.

Questions for reflection

1. To what extent am I reading the Word and being with God for my spiritual health, separate from preparation for teaching and preaching?
2. In what ways is my prayer life leading me closer to God?

People with right doctrine

God is calling us to be *people with right doctrine*. Doctrine is far more than a set of beliefs; it is a way of life. It involves far more than what we think: it governs how we behave. We especially reaffirm doctrines that have been challenged, such as the inspiration of the Bible, tongues as the initial physical evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the imminent return of Christ, a life of sanctification or holiness before the Lord. Our purpose in emphasizing these doctrines is not because they are necessarily more important than other fundamental truths, but because we need to be of the same mind, saying the same things together.

Questions for reflection

1. Do I, in addition to believing the Bible is inspired of God, obey the Word in what it requires of me?
2. Is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance a belief I hold, or additionally an ongoing experience I have?
3. Do I await the soon coming of the Lord with reluctance, apprehension, or joy?
4. Have I in any way strayed from a walk of holiness before the Lord and become involved in attitudes and/or practices with which Christ is not pleased?

People of commitment

God is calling us to be a *people of commitment*. The start of our Christian walk involves a simple visible act of commitment: water baptism. We view with great concern reported conversions not accompanied by water baptism. Water baptism is not the prize at the end of a well-lived Christian life: it is the witness of entrance into the Christian life of which we are not worthy. We call upon our pastors and congregations to place emphasis upon water baptism as so commanded by Christ.

We rejoice in the continuing growth of local churches, and we encourage a strong emphasis upon the blessings and responsibilities of local church membership. We call upon our pastors and leaders to intensify efforts to truly disciple persons coming to Christ and to train them in all doctrine and godliness.

Questions for reflection

1. How many of those I claim as converts are baptized in water and are added to the church as disciples of Christ?
2. Who am I equipping, and in what ways, for discipleship, ministry, and outreach?

People in right relationship to others

God is calling us to be a *people in right relationship to others*. We view with great alarm the breakup of Christian marriages and families. With no attempt to be censorious or judgmental toward those who have gone through the trauma of separation and divorce, we beseech the married men and women of our Fellowship to hold fast to Christ and to each other. We ask pastors and leaders to give priority time and leadership to their own homes and to transparently model their family relationships before their people. We encourage the ministry of Christian, Spirit-filled, and doctrinally sound psychological counseling for persons, marriages, and families in stress.

To those scarred by marital problems and divorce, we hold forth the healing hand of Christ who binds up the brokenhearted. As our family relationships are whole, so then our other relationships in the church and community will bear witness to the love of Christ which constrains us.

Questions for reflection

1. What, if anything, would the Lord change in my relationship to my spouse and family?
2. How can I help develop strong Christian marriages and families in my church?

People of worship

God is calling us to be a *people of worship*. It is possible to have a Pentecostal form of worship without Pentecostal blessing. True worship is not manipulated: true worship comes from a cleansed and adoring heart to God.

All leadership in worship requires an anointing of God's Spirit. We exhort that ministers saturate their preparation with prayer and

diligence, that sermons be delivered from the heart of God, that congregational singing not be regarded as preliminaries to be gone through but vital worship to be given, that all aspects of worship—even announcements—reflect prayerful planning and respectful decorum.

Questions for reflection

1. Does my preparation for worship and preaching consist of a hastily grabbed songbook and Bible, or am I spiritually prepared to lead the congregation in heartfelt worship?
2. What provision is made for my congregation to have regular extended times of corporate worship, praise, and prayer?

People under authority

God is calling us to be a *people under authority*. The Scripture tells us that in addition to being under the authority of the Lord, we are to be subject to one another.

Some in the body of Christ take no responsibility toward the local church and prize their independence. On the opposite extreme, some teach a slavish form of submission which reduces the believer to an unhealthy dependence upon a hierarchical structure of control. True Biblical subjection is a matter neither of independence nor dependence, but interdependence.

We believe the local church, and the Assemblies of God as a whole, is a cooperative fellowship and not an association of independent individuals. From time to time, we do well to affirm our loyalty, support, and commitment to our church and the leaders God has placed within it.

Question for reflection

1. Do I pray regularly for the national, district, and sectional leaders of the Assemblies of God as well as for the leadership of my church?
2. Am I a person who lives under authority to others?

People welcoming ties of spiritual fellowship

When we are in a place of right relationship to the Lord, ourselves, our family, and our church, we are then able to reach out and be in right relationship to other segments of Christ's body. We rejoice at the outpouring of the Spirit among persons outside the Assemblies of God and welcome ties of spiritual fellowship.

In this spirit, the 1977 General Council called for planning a national conference involving participation by other Pentecostal and charismatic believers. We are delighted that, in the providence and timing of God, this Conference on the Holy Spirit will be held in Springfield, Missouri, August 16-18, 1982.

Subthemes of the conference will focus on the Person, Purpose, and Presence of the Spirit. Upwards of 15,000 people—inside and outside the Assemblies of God—are expected to attend. This national conference is a follow-up to the very successful Regional Conferences on the Holy Spirit. Plenary and study (or breakout) sessions in the national conference will focus on Biblical and

practical concerns related to the work of the Spirit in personal life and the local church.

We encourage each member of the General Council to pray for and plan to attend this important gathering.

We conclude with the affirmation that the world at its worst needs the Church at its best. With the help of the Lord, let's do our best for Him!

Following the adoption of the report the general superintendent stated: "I know of no greater impact that could grow out of this General Council than to have every one of us, whether in our local church, division of ministry, department of emphasis, college or school, make it a point to read this document in its totality and possibly to distribute it. I think it would show that this Movement stands for spiritual emphasis—not being slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, as this Council proceeding indicates. As leaders, we feel that every one of us needs to exercise the influence of our life, our example, our ministry, our outreach to whatever public we minister to or with. Let there go forth a clarion call for dynamic spiritual life that shall be the watchword out of this 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God. I call upon you, brothers and sisters, to do it in our Saviour's name."

Resolution 20. Status of Divorced and Remarried Persons

A procedural motion prevailed to consider Resolution 20 as the next order of business. Bartlett Peterson stated that this resolution originated from the Southern Missouri District Council. He read the resolution and moved its adoption. James Griggs, district secretary, stated that the district council voted with a sizable majority to refer to this General Council the request for a committee to study this particular area.

By common consent the fourth "whereas" was amended by substituting the word *forgiven* for the words "not guilty" and the sixth "whereas" by substituting the word *righteous* for the words "not guilty."

By common consent Resolution 20 was amended by deleting the word "must" and inserting after the word "Scripture" in the sixth "whereas" the following: "*the husband of one wife*" may and inserting following the words "deacon should not have" these words: *been divorced and remarried and thus having*; and in the seventh "whereas" substituting the words *may be* for the word "is."

A motion prevailed to amend the resolution by adding the following: "And be it further resolved that the general superintendent appoint this study committee which shall consist of not less than seven Spirit-filled Greek and Hebrew scholars who shall also study the culture and customs related to this issue as this might help to correctly interpret the Word of God."

It was moved and seconded that this amendment be amended to

provide for 21 members, 7 of whom would qualify as Greek and Hebrew scholars. The motion was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend the proposed additional resolution to provide for a committee of seven Spirit-filled men, three of whom shall be Greek and Hebrew scholars, etc. By consent of the maker of the motion, the words *not less than* were inserted before the words "seven Spirit-filled men." The amendment was carried.

The motion for the additional resolution was carried.

A question was raised concerning the scope of the study. It was stated that the originators of the resolution intended to limit study to that which happened prior to conversion or else for one of the two causes mentioned.

The resolution as edited in its preamble and amended by an additional provision was carried. Resolution 20 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, It is possible for persons to serve as ministers or deacons in Assemblies of God churches who, prior to their Christian rebirth, were guilty of any type of sin, including murder, adultery, and all other categories mentioned in the Word of God, except divorce and remarriage; and

WHEREAS, The inspired Word of God declares that any man in Christ is a new creation, and that old things are passed away; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures further declare that in Jesus Christ the believer is justified; and

WHEREAS, To be justified means to be declared forgiven of any sin; and

WHEREAS, God declares He will not remember the believer's sins and iniquities anymore; and

WHEREAS, God declares the believer righteous, and looks at the believer's past as nonexistent, the meaning of the Scripture "the husband of one wife" may be that since becoming a believer, the person seeking the office of minister or deacon should not have been divorced and remarried and thus having more than one living spouse; and

WHEREAS, To continue to indicate that God forgets all past sins except divorce and remarriage may be to view the Scriptures and the nature of God's justification through Jesus Christ inconsistently; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a study committee be appointed to review the Biblical teaching of justification by faith with regard to divorced and remarried persons, who prior to conversion were divorced and remarried, or who have Biblical grounds for divorce and remarriage since conversion (fornication or desertion), and the relationship of this justification to qualifications of ministers and deacons, and report said findings with recommendations to the next General Council in session; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the general superintendent appoint this study committee which shall consist of not less than seven Spirit-filled men, three of whom shall be Greek and Hebrew scholars, who shall also study the culture and customs related to this issue as this might help to correctly interpret the Word of God.

Recess

The chair declared the business session in recess at 5:20 p.m. The body stood and sang the Doxology, and T. C. Cunningham of Tyler, Texas, dismissed in prayer.

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 24

The Monday evening service was under the direction of R. D. E. Smith, executive presbyter from the Northwest Area. William G. Eastlake, national director of the Division of Publication, gave the Scripture reading. Ramona Crabtree of San Jose, California, served at the piano and Dawn Crabtree of Des Moines, Iowa, served at the organ. Paul E. Lowenberg, executive presbyter from the South Central Area, was the speaker for the service which had the theme "God Omnipotent Reigns—in the Future." Special music for the service was provided by the choir from Trinity Tabernacle, Bridgeton, Missouri; Ira Stanphill of Fort Worth, Texas; and "The Brothers" from Akron, Ohio.

TUESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 25

The Tuesday morning business session opened at 8:45 a.m. with the singing of several choruses led by Edwin Loftin. Max Eleiott of Fort Worth, Texas, served at the piano and Gwen Jones of Springfield, Missouri, played the organ. G. Raymond Carlson led in prayer for God's guidance on the final business session.

The business session was called to order at 9 a.m.

Privileged Motion

A privileged motion was offered requesting that the list of nominees for executive presbyter be mailed to the constituency along with resolutions 60 days prior to the General Council. The chairman noted that some of this information is not received in the general secretary's office until just shortly before General Council due to the dates of meeting for some of the district councils. The chair requested that this be included as a suggestion to the general secretary rather than as a privileged motion. This was agreeable to the one offering the motion.

Roster Committee Report

L. Jack Moore presented the final Roster Committee report as follows:

Ordained ministers	4,307
Delegates	792
Voting constituency	5,099
Licensed ministers	273
Visitors	6,534
Nonvoting constituency	6,807
Total	11,906

A motion prevailed to receive the final roster report. It was noted that this was the highest registration to date.

Resolution 16. Parents' Rights

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 16 and moved its adoption. He indicated that the resolution was sponsored by Warren Combs of Nampa, Idaho.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by substituting the words *in making* for the words "to be involved in." The motion to amend was carried.

Resolution 16 as amended was adopted. It follows:

WHEREAS, It is the God-given right and responsibility of parents to be involved in the guidance, counseling, and development of their minor children; and

WHEREAS, The subject of sex education remains a continuing concern to Biblically based church persons; and

WHEREAS, The General Council adopted the following statement on sex education in 1969, and reaffirmed the same in 1975, which reads as follows:

Programs of sex education in our public schools have recently attracted much public attention by their undisguised frankness and their treatment of sex without moral instruction. Some courses specifically exclude moral considerations as not being relevant to sex education.

We affirm that the ideal place for sex education is in the home. The church likewise has a responsibility in preparing young people to become well-adjusted members of family and society. Although the public school may in some cases provide legitimate and wholesome sex education, we are strongly opposed to all attempts which divorce such instruction from Biblical morality. Because of the wide diversity from one community to another, we further feel that sex education in the public school should be voluntary rather than compulsory.

We therefore urge Christian parents to conscientiously fulfill their responsibility of inculcating in their children Bible-based moral standards along with general instruction in family living. In communities where unacceptable sex education is already a part of the curriculum, we urge parents, educators, Parent-Teacher Associations, clergymen, and civic leaders to remove

the objectionable courses or to make Biblical standards of morality, upon which our social and legal traditions are based, an integral part of the sex instruction. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we affirm and insist that no element of government—either local, state, or federal—shall infringe upon the legal rights of parents in making decisions regarding their minor children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery use whatever means at its disposal to disseminate this action.

Resolution 17. Disabled Ministers

Resolution 17 was read by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, who moved its adoption. He indicated that this resolution originated with the Northwest District.

The motion to adopt was seconded and carried. Resolution 17 is as follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need for clarity regarding the status and credentials designation of disabled ministers who are incapacitated prior to reaching age 65; and

WHEREAS, The general secretary's office is using the term *early senior-retired* for ministers who are permanently ill or disabled prior to age 65; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws do not provide for the designation of early senior-retired, and there is a need for bylaw provision for designating disabled ministers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 7, paragraph b, page 98, be amended to include the following:

(4) *Disabled ministers.* A permanently disabled or permanently ill minister whose illness prevents him or her from engaging in active ministry shall be indicated as inactive. The credential status of the disabled minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Disabled ministers thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

Resolution 18. National Group Hospitalization Insurance Program

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 18 and moved its adoption. He stated that the resolution had originated in the Indiana District. The motion to adopt was seconded.

The chairman asked Raymond H. Hudson to speak concerning the resolution, giving a little background of a similar plan which had been in force at one time on a national basis. He stated that if there is to be such a program, there must be participation by a broad group of districts and of a large number of ministers within those districts.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding the words *and if feasible dental and eye care*, making the last paragraph to read: "RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to develop and recommend a national group hospitalization, and if feasible dental and eye care, insurance program which would be available to ordained and licensed ministers of the Assemblies of God and that the Executive Presbytery be authorized to implement the program." The motion to amend carried.

The motion to adopt Resolution 18 as amended was carried. By common consent the matter of appointing the committee will be laid before the Executive Presbytery. Resolution 18 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The cost of health care can best be covered in a group plan; and

WHEREAS, A larger group can provide more comprehensive coverage at a lower premium cost; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to develop and recommend a national group hospitalization, and if feasible dental and eye care, insurance program which would be available to ordained and licensed ministers of the Assemblies of God and that the Executive Presbytery be authorized to implement the program.

Privileged Motion

James E. Hamill—Honorary General Presbyter

Gene Jackson, superintendent of the Tennessee District, offered the following privileged motion and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, James E. Hamill has served the Assemblies of God with great distinction as pastor, district assistant superintendent, and general presbyter; as a member of the Board of Directors of Central Bible College, Evangel College, and the General Council Board of Education, Foreign Missions Board, Committee on Advance, and numerous other boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hamill has served on the General Presbytery continuously since 1946 and as a member of the Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God for the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, The Tennessee District recommends that the name of James E. Hamill be presented to the General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbyter, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this 39th General Council convening in St. Louis, Missouri, elect James E. Hamill as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of the General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph c.

The motion was seconded and carried. Brother Hamill was recognized and expressed his appreciation.

Resolution 19. Christian Education Materials Study Committee

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 21 and moved its adoption. He indicated that this resolution was sponsored by Peter Hamelink of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Resolution 19 is as follows:

WHEREAS, The Gospel Publishing House was instituted and developed to be a source of materials for the churches and ministers of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, A seemingly significant number of Assemblies of God churches are obtaining their Christian education materials from other sources; and

WHEREAS, The Gospel Publishing House suffers loss of revenue from sales; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the general superintendent appoint a study committee:

1. To survey a cross section of churches using materials from other sources.
2. To ascertain their reasons for not using Gospel Publishing House materials.
3. To present its findings to the General Presbytery with recommendations.

After some discussion, a motion prevailed to table Resolution 19.

Resolution 21. Chaplains Military Assignments—Definition

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 21 and moved its adoption. He stated that this resolution had originated with the Chaplaincy Department.

The motion was seconded and carried. Resolution 21 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The phrase *temporary duty assignment* has a specific military definition referring to a period of 6 months in duration after which one returns to a permanent duty station; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 9, paragraph d. (2), page 100, be amended by striking the phrase "temporary duty" and substituting the word *military* so that the paragraph shall read:

- (2) *Financial responsibility of military chaplains.* Military chaplains will be obligated to their home districts in the amount of \$5 per month per officer grade and encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their military assignments.

Resolution 22. World Peace Tax Fund

Resolution 22 was read by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee as follows and he moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Article XX. Military Service, page 157, of the bylaws affirms that each member of our Fellowship has the right to declare his position as a combatant, noncombatant, or a conscientious objector in reference to military service; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures exhort: "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace" (Romans 14:19, NIV) and our Lord Jesus taught "blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9); and

WHEREAS, There are those in our Assemblies of God fellowship, and among our fellow Christian believers who, while purposing to fulfill all the obligations of loyal citizenship, nevertheless feel constrained by the Holy Spirit and the teachings of Scriptures that they cannot conscientiously participate in war and armed resistance which involves the actual destruction of human life, nor conscientiously pay taxes for military expenditures and the production of weapons (especially nuclear weaponry) which will result in the destruction of life; and

WHEREAS, The present tax system in the United States is working a grievous injustice against people who, while not required to bear arms, must still pay for others to do so and for the continuing and widening arms race; and

WHEREAS, We as Christians are called to be salt and light in this world and to speak prophetically to our society with the gospel message of salvation and peace, and therefore should look for alternatives to war to settle international conflicts; and

WHEREAS, A bill to establish a World Peace Tax Fund, i.e., H.R. 4897 and S. 880, has been introduced in Congress which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide that taxpayers conscientiously opposed to participation in war may elect to have their income, estate, or gift tax payments spent for nonmilitary and peace-related purposes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God go on record in support of the swift passage of legislation establishing a World Peace Tax Fund, and to urge individual members of the Assemblies of God to write their appropriate legislators.

This resolution had been sponsored by Michael Chase and Joel Kruggel, both of Illinois. The motion to adopt was seconded.

Following some discussion attention was called to the fact that this is a political matter, and as a General Council we ought not to take a stand for or against any political issue, no matter how popular or unpopular it might be.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to table Resolution 22.

Resolution 23. National Ministers Day

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 23, which had been sponsored by Leo Duncan of Fremont, California, as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America gives us the foundation for a free, prosperous, and independent life for every citizen, providing for freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences; and

WHEREAS, The people of the United States should be grateful to the ministers of our land who are busy caring for the spiritual needs of our communities throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, We are admonished by Holy Writ to appreciate those who diligently labor among us and have charge over us in the Lord, giving us instruction that we esteem them very highly in love because of their work; and

WHEREAS, In Joint Resolution No. 192 it has been resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President is authorized and requested to designate the third Sunday in September as "National Ministers Day"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The General Council of the Assemblies of God go on record as favoring and urging all Assemblies of God churches to give honor where honor is due by setting aside the date of September 20, 1981, and every successive third Sunday in September as a day in which to honor the ministers of our communities, to express appreciation for their continuing role as worthy members of our society in the United States of America.

The motion to adopt was seconded and carried. The chair noted there was a large number of abstentions.

Resolution 27. Financial Support for Commission on Chaplains

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 27, stating that it had come from the Chaplaincy Department, as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in 1959 adopted a program which made provision for each Assemblies of God military chaplain to contribute 50 percent of his tithe toward the expense of the Commission on Chaplains; and

WHEREAS, The industrial and institutional chaplaincy is currently a deficit operation, and no guidelines have been officially established for its support to the national program; and

WHEREAS, There are no guidelines for others, such as part-time chaplains, reserve chaplains, chaplaincy trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XVI of the Bylaws, Section 6 (p. 146), be amended by substituting a new paragraph d, to read as follows:

All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from

chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. Industrial and institutional chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy Fund, and the military chaplaincy contributions shall be placed in the Military Chaplaincy Fund.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 27.

Resolution 28. Credential Renewal Cut-off Date and Renewal Fee

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 28 and moved its adoption. He indicated that this resolution originated with the New Jersey District. It was further noted that the Executive Presbytery had increased the fee for reinstatement when consideration was given to this matter.

By common consent it was agreed to edit lines 6 and 7, page 2, and line 8, page 3, to read: "a late fee of \$25," eliminating the word "penalty."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 28 as edited. The resolution as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, District council offices are experiencing an increasing problem in the prompt renewal of credentials; and

WHEREAS, This procrastination is felt to be the product of an unduly extended grace period; and

WHEREAS, This procrastination seems to suggest a lack of proper priority on the value of the minister's credentials; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII of the bylaws, Section 6, paragraphs a, b, c, and d, (page 97) be amended to read as follows:

a. *Expiration date.* All fellowship certificates are valid only until January 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event a minister does not receive his renewal form by January 1, he should notify his district office.

b. *Grace period until February 15.* All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before January 31, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent and shall be required to pay a late fee of \$25, up until February 15.

c. *Reinstatement required after February 15.* Ministers who have not renewed by February 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of January 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$50 fee in order to be reinstated.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article IX, Section 10, paragraph c (1), (page 114) be amended to read as follows:

(1) *Renewed.* The term *renewed* shall be used to apply strictly to those who for inadvertent reasons failed to comply with the

annual questionnaire deadline of January 31, but do renew on or before February 15, have paid a late fee of \$25, to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices, and are restored to the ministerial list.

Following action on this resolution, Brother Zimmerman made the following comments, which he indicated he did not want to make until the matter had been acted upon. He would have preferred to give it when there was a peak attendance.

At times it makes you wonder what value some ministers place on their credentials with the Assemblies of God. We are sometimes faced with having to act upon people who have regularly over the past decade, at least once every 2 years, allowed their credentials to lapse. This presents a tremendous problem to the General Council Credentials Committee.

Apparently some people come in through another door of entry to the Assemblies of God than what some of us came through. I don't think there's anything besides the approbation of God and the confidence of one's family that is in any way comparable to the privilege of being a member of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

People for the most flimsy reasons stash their renewal forms underneath the stack and let them lie there until they have been lapsed, then belatedly have to take steps to be renewed. All this time the districts and the general secretary's office have endeavored to faithfully keep in order proper procedures.

We who serve districts ought to make the need of becoming exemplary in being punctual and meeting deadlines a very important matter of orientation to new credential applicants. To be always late is a defect of character. For me to impose upon you by being 5 minutes late is an insult to you, and I think it's high time that we stress some of the fundamental points of character and fulfilling of obligations. What I am saying does not apply primarily to you to whom I am speaking. You brothers and sisters have shown your interest by the fact that you are here this morning. I commend you. But I do think we need to tighten the reins on this matter across our Fellowship, and I would urge that we would stress it in our district councils as well.

A motion prevailed that the above comments be included in the ministers letter at an appropriate time.

Resolution 29. Support of General Council Headquarters by Senior Ministers

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 29 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Senior ministers have contributed of their time, talent, and substance to our Assemblies of God fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Such commitment of faithfulness merits an ap-

preciation for their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Cost-of-living factors become more acute, along with possible physical hardships and limited income; and

WHEREAS, It is often difficult to determine the current pressures on our senior ministers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c (4) (page 99) of the General Council Bylaws be amended to read:

The financial requirements of the General Council shall be optional to all senior-active, senior-semiretired, and senior-retired ministers.

The motion to adopt this resolution, sponsored by the New Jersey District, was seconded.

A motion prevailed to refer this matter back to the New Jersey District, expressing appreciation for the sentiment of the resolution, and requesting that they submit a resolution for the consideration of the 1983 General Council that would deal with the implications of the entire paragraph of Section 8 of the bylaws; and further, that the granting of relief be clearly indicated as applying to those who are in need of this consideration.

Resolution 30. Nominee for Honorary General Presbyter—T. E. Cannon

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 30 and moved its adoption. The resolution was sponsored by the Iowa District. Arthur Parsons, superintendent of the Ohio District and brother-in-law to T. E. Cannon, requested and obtained the privilege of seconding the motion.

The motion was unanimously carried. Resolution 30 is as follows:

WHEREAS, Theodore E. Cannon has qualified according to the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, having served as general presbyter for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the General Council as an assistant general superintendent for 6 years; the Kentucky District as superintendent for 3 years and the West Central and Iowa Districts as superintendent for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served our constituency with distinction as national director of the Division of Home Missions; as chairman of the Commission on Chaplains, and on the board of directors of several colleges and institutes; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa District Executive Board of the Assemblies of God requests that he be seated as honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in session in August 1981, recommends his nomination as honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect Theodore E. Cannon as honorary general presbyter.

**Resolution 32. Nominee for Honorary
General Presbyter—E. R. Anderson**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 32 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend E. R. Anderson has served the fellowship of the Assemblies of God as a pastor, missionary, district presbyter, and district superintendent; and as a general presbyter for the North Texas District for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend E. R. Anderson has met the qualifications as set forth in the Constitution of the General Council (Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d) concerning honorary general presbyters; and

WHEREAS, The North Texas District has taken an action recommending that his name be presented by the General Presbytery to this General Council as a nominee for honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That by an action to adopt this resolution, the General Council declares E. R. Anderson elected as an honorary general presbyter.

James K. Bridges, superintendent of the North Texas District, moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Resolution 33. Transfer Requirements Exceptions

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 33 and moved its adoption. This resolution came as a referral from the Executive Presbytery. The motion was seconded.

A motion prevailed to amend lines 15 and 16 to read: "(3) The institution is acceptable to both districts."

A further motion prevailed to amend lines 2 and 10 by substituting the word *serving* for the word "teaching" in each instance.

The motion to adopt resolution 33 as amended carried. Resolution 33 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need for clarification as to the district of affiliation of those serving in non-Assemblies of God institutions; and

WHEREAS, The regular scope of ministry of these persons reaches beyond district boundaries; and

WHEREAS, The exceptions as presently listed in the bylaws do not make clear provision for these ministers; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VIII, Section 10, be amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

(7) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:

(a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries.

- (b) Both districts agree to the exception.
- (c) The institution is acceptable to both districts.

**Resolution 34. Nominee for Honorary
General Presbyter—N. Cleo Tapp**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 34. James Griggs, district secretary-treasurer for the Southern Missouri District, moved its adoption.

The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Resolution 34 follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend N. Cleo Tapp has served the Southern Missouri District as secretary-treasurer and as district superintendent for a total of 27 years; and as general presbyter for more than 20 years; and

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

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect N. Cleo Tapp as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of the General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d.

Resolution 36. Refugee Resettlement

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 36 and moved its adoption. This resolution had come from the National Association of Evangelicals and was presented to the General Council as a referral from the Executive Presbytery. The motion to adopt was seconded.

Following discussion, a motion prevailed to refer this resolution to the Executive Presbytery for refinement with power to act. Resolution 36 follows:

WHEREAS, A torrent of political refugees is fleeing the countries of the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East to find refuge in the United States and other Free World countries; and

WHEREAS, It is the Christian and moral obligation to respond positively to the hungry, destitute, and deprived masses of our global community who are seeking help; and

WHEREAS, The Church's mandate is to evangelize all nations; and refugees uprooted from land, culture, and religion represent a very responsive people to the gospel; and

WHEREAS, Most other nations quickly find themselves unprepared and unable to materially assist great numbers of refugees; and

WHEREAS, Our nation is unique in its place among the world's nations to receive the "tired . . . poor . . . huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . . the homeless . . . tempest-tossed . . ."; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That local churches of The General Council of the Assemblies of God be encouraged to demonstrate both the love of Christ and the generosity of Americans by sponsoring at least one refugee family in resettlement in their neighborhoods through World Relief Refugee Services of the National Association of Evangelicals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That since this is an act of Christian charity, each sponsoring church is requested to provide the initial orientation, to assist in locating housing and employment, and to cover the local cost of resettlement of these refugees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That local congregations, unable to resettle a refugee family themselves be encouraged to give special funds to the Refugee Resettlement Account through the Benevolences Department of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Appreciation to Resolutions Committee

Bartlett Peterson expressed appreciation to the members of the Resolutions Committee for their excellent work and wonderful cooperation in preparing for presentation the largest number of resolutions ever received by any General Council.

Resolution 37. Resolution of Appreciation

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 37 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Resolution 37 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The Lord of the Church has generously bestowed manifold blessings upon this 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Our stay in the City of St. Louis has been made comfortable and pleasant by the acts of kindness and the efficient services of numerous persons and agencies; and

WHEREAS, This Council is indebted to many whose talents and labors of faithfulness have contributed to its success; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we express our gratitude and appreciation to the following: Visitor and Convention Bureau of Greater St. Louis, Jerry Bedford and Jim Curran, associate sales directors; Cervantes Convention Center, Joseph Failoni, director, Melanie Hooch, convention manager; Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, Cecily Hoffius, sales director, Dale Simmons, director of convention services; The City of St. Louis and its Police Department; the news media; area hotels and motels; Walter Knoll, florist; Publication Printing Company, Christian Kerlick, vice-president and general manager, and staff; Xerox Corporation, Robert Brewster, coordinator of convention services, and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That wholehearted appreciation be extended to our host districts, their superintendents, W. Nelson Sachs, A. W.

Pettet, and Richard W. Dortch; and presbyteries, ministers, and churches of the Southern Missouri, Northern Missouri, and Illinois District Councils.

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws Article III, Section 5, Duties of the Executive Director of Foreign Missions, and to Article XV, Division of Foreign Missions

The general superintendent stated that the next item for consideration was a recommendation from the Executive Presbytery to amend the bylaws as it pertains to the duties of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions and Article XV. Division of Foreign Missions.

A procedural motion prevailed to dispense with the reading of the report since it had been mailed to the constituency, and to leave it to the discretion of the chairman to guide the Council through the consideration of this report.

It was pointed out that the proposed amendments to the Division of Foreign Missions bylaws are to bring this area into conformity with that of other divisions. The present bylaws deal with a number of procedural matters which are cared for through the Foreign Missions Board and should no longer be in the bylaws, but in the manuals which govern policy and procedures. It was also noted that the activities of the Division of Foreign Missions are under the Foreign Missions Board, which board is charged with establishing policy, the appointment of missionaries, and other duties which may be assigned to it by the Executive Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Bylaws Article III, Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Foreign Missions. By common consent the word *material* was substituted for the word "pages" in paragraph c. The motion carried.

A motion prevailed to adopt Bylaws Article XV, Section 1. Authorization and Purpose.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 2. Government and Organization.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 3. Personnel Department.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 4. Promotions Department.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 5. Finance Department.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 6. Support of Division of Foreign Missions.

The following resolution was presented and adopted:

WHEREAS, The policy transferring 5 percent of missionary funds handled directly by the Division of Foreign Missions to an emergency fund to meet emergency expenses and needs for which

the division was originally responsible was adopted by the General Council in session in 1961; and

WHEREAS, The original policy was adopted after extensive research had been done by a committee; and

WHEREAS, The mounting problem of administering our rapidly expanding foreign missions program is becoming increasingly expensive due not only to the added activities but to spiraling inflation; and

WHEREAS, The present 5 percent will be unable to carry these increased costs in the foreseeable future; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery appoint a study committee of seven members as follows: two pastors of churches with a proven foreign missionary program, two foreign missionaries, two district missionary secretaries from districts with ongoing foreign missionary programs, and one member chosen for his missionary interest. The said committee shall make a thorough study of administrative and emergency costs of the Division of Foreign Missions and ways and means of meeting the same and make its report to the General Council session in 1983.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 7. Missionary Candidates.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 8. Support of Missionaries.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 9. Ordination of Missionaries.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 10. Field Organizations.

A motion prevailed to adopt Article XV, Section 11. Property.

A motion prevailed to adopt the report as a whole.

The report as adopted follows:

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 official acts of the Foreign Missions Board and other committees of the division.

b. Conduct all correspondence with prospective missionaries and with those already on the field.

c. Prepare the foreign missions material 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 foreign missions work is involved.

e. Direct the foreign missions activities of the Fellowship.

f. Distribute all foreign missions 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 foreign missions supplies.

i. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery.

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. Strategy. The missions strategy of the division shall be:

(1) The widest possible evangelization of the spiritually lost through every available means.

(2) The establishment of indigenous churches after the New Testament pattern.

(3) The training of national believers to proclaim the gospel to their own people in an expanding mission to other people.

(4) The showing of compassion for suffering people in a manner representing the love of Jesus Christ.

d. Indigenous principle. The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the gospel has not been preached and by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating national churches in all regions.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions who 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.

c. 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.

d. Foreign Missions Board

(1) *Composition.* The activities of the Division of Foreign Missions shall be under the supervision of the 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 appointed 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, rotated so three will be appointed annually for each of two terms and two will be appointed in the year of the additional term. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* The responsibilities of the Foreign Missions Board shall be to establish and evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, to establish standards for appointed foreign missionaries and foreign missions institutions, and to examine and approve candidates for foreign missions appointment. The decisions of the board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(4) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the Foreign Missions Board who are not members of the Foreign Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the Foreign Missions Committee may present the case for the Division of Foreign Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or Foreign Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

e. *Laymen's Advisory Council.* An advisory council 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 and shall meet with the Foreign Missions Board at least once annually or as often as deemed necessary by the executive director of the division.

They shall be chosen from churches other than those whose pastors will be serving on the Foreign Missions Board at the same time. They shall have the endorsement of their respective pastors. Their terms of office shall be for 3 years, rotated so three will be elected annually for each of two terms and two will be elected in the year of the additional term. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

f. *Field directors.* There shall be four field directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical areas. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

g. *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, the heads of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. 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.

h. *General Presbytery representatives.* Field directors are members of the General Presbytery representing the missionaries from their respective areas. Other field fellowship representatives on the General Presbytery shall be chosen in the following manner:

The Foreign Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries from each general area represented by the field directors, including international ministries. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery Meeting and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field fellowship. Ballots shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority shall be required to elect.

i. *Foreign missions policies.* All appointed foreign missionaries shall be required to work in accord with the published policies of the division as authorized by the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 3. Personnel Department

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

b. *Function.* The Personnel Department shall serve as the primary source for missionary personnel data and shall be responsible for:

(1) Recruiting and processing prospective missionary candidates, both career and short-term.

(2) Physical and mental health care of the missionaries and their dependents.

(3) Family and children's programs.

(4) Supervision of continuing education programs for missionary personnel.

(5) Coordination of the missionary-in-residence program of Assemblies of God colleges.

(6) Other duties as may be assigned by the executive director of the division or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 4. Promotions Department

a. *Department secretary.* There shall be a departmental secretary who shall be amenable to and serve under the executive

director of the Division of Foreign Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Function. The Promotions Department shall manage the United States relationships of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:

(1) Create, direct, and evaluate all promotional and fund-raising strategies.

(2) Coordinate public, district, church, institutional, and parachurch relations.

(3) Provide for deputational ministries and editorial services.

(4) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director of the division or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 5. Finance Department

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

b. Function. The Finance Department shall serve the missionary family and the division's administrative function in all matters related to financial processing and accountability. Its responsibilities shall be to:

(1) Execute and administrate the plans and policies set forth by the Foreign Missions Board with regard to missions finances.

(2) Provide contact with outside agencies, associated departments, service departments, and districts with regard to the division's finances.

(3) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director of the division or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 6. 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.

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

e. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special designations) received directly by the division shall be transferred to an emergency fund to meet the emergency expenses for which the Division of Foreign Missions is responsible.

Section 7. 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 examining each applicant as to:

(1) Personal experience of full New Testament salvation.

(2) Definite experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

(3) Definite call to foreign work.

(4) Physical, mental, and spiritual fitness for work.

(5) Christian standing and general qualifications. It is required that each applicant receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of his/her district council, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character. Applicants shall not be granted general missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a qualifying period of service in the United States.

c. Specialized service. Candidates for foreign service of a specialized character such as nurses, teachers, etcetera, 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.

Section 8. Support of Missionaries

a. A faith mission. The foreign missions program of the Assemblies of God is a faith mission. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

b. Church support. Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with the Division of Foreign Missions.

c. Undesignated and general emergency funds. Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

d. District support. It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable. (See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan.)

Section 9. 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 10. Field Organizations

a. National church organization. Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

b. Field fellowships. Missionary field fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries and approved ministers abroad assigned permanently to a field of 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 and with the national church.

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(s) to act for the field in matters normally handled by the field fellowship.

Section 11. 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 the title, and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missions 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*

(a) *General policy.* It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(b) *Exceptions.* 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. Church buildings or pastors' residences which are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds shall be held in the name of

its national Assemblies of God organization or by a local church which is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(3) *Title policy on General Council loans.* In all cases where the Division of Foreign Missions has advanced 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 shall cooperate with the missionary fellowship on the field and must secure its endorsement before requesting the approval of the division.

c. Legal documents. A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all mission properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to the Division of Foreign Missions for filing.

Expressions of Appreciation

Prior to adjournment of the final business session, the general superintendent expressed his appreciation for the good service rendered by the parliamentarians, the hard-working committees behind the scenes, his fellow executive officers, and the executive presbyters. He then made the following statement.

Statement of the General Superintendent

Everyone has cooperated to make the 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God a tremendous testimony for the high spiritual statesmanship represented by our Fellowship. I am thankful we have had an open floor, and everyone has been able to express his views. If indeed someone holds a position slightly different from that which you hold, the richness of our diversity is one of the great strengths of our Fellowship.

During my years of ministry I have been able to do anything and everything that God has laid upon my heart through the Movement. I have never felt that I needed to step out of the Movement in order to give full expression to the ministry God has given me. I'm glad to be a part of that kind of Movement. I hope that we will ever retain a spirit of appreciation and esteem for each other, and if Jesus tarries, that the tributaries that flow in to make the mainstream of the General Council will ever keep themselves flowing tributaries.

We cannot afford to lose a single source of input into our Movement and its ministry if we are to achieve the high expectation of the 80s. In identifying ourselves with the crying needs that are represented at home and abroad, we have never had a greater opportunity for ministry, both in and through the church, than we have today. Let us be vigilant, faithful, and true. Let us remember that where we work we

are representatives of the cause of Christ as it is expressed through the instrumentality of the Assemblies of God.

No chain is stronger than its weakest link. Let us therefore strengthen each other and go forward and do valiantly in the work to which God has called us. This is the day of unprecedented opportunity, and I thank God for the diversity of age groups in our Fellowship. We need the thrust of every age group. We need to respect each other in the context in which each serves.

As together we pray and work we can see the greatest results that I think this Fellowship has ever seen. We have not reached the summit. We are in the state of becoming. I pray as the apostle Paul prayed, that I may lay hold upon (literal for "apprehend" in Philippians 3:12) that for which also I am laid hold upon of Christ. God has laid hold of our lives for an eternal purpose, and my prayer is that it will not be stymied, impeded, or impaired, but it will be true, solid, and victorious in its expression.

Following this statement by the general superintendent the chair was turned over to the assistant general superintendent.

A motion unanimously prevailed that the summary remarks of the general superintendent be communicated to the Fellowship along with other appropriate communications coming from the 39th General Council; and further, that appreciation be expressed to the general superintendent for the expert manner in which he has chaired the General Council sessions, and the latitude of expressions he has permitted from the floor while at the same time keeping us on course.

A motion prevailed that the Executive Presbytery encourage the Zimmermans to take a vacation.

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the 39th General Council of the Assemblies of God be adjourned *sine die* at 12:10 p.m., August 25, 1981. Following the singing of the Doxology, the meeting was concluded with prayer by General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman.

Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to August 25, 1981

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 *General 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 Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures. It shall recognize the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God

for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

ARTICLE V.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

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

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

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

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

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and

the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 8:17, 18.

(e) **The Title, Lord Jesus Christ**

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. Rom. 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3.

(f) **The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us**

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us. Matt. 1:23; 1 John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 1:13, 17.

(g) **The Title, Son of God**

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title, Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man to the order of time. Matt. 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; 1:1-13.

(h) **Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. 2 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2.

(i) **Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord**

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

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

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

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4).
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

(a) **Conditions to Salvation**

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) **The Evidences of Salvation**

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) **Baptism in Water**

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

(b) **Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and 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:

- To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- 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:

- 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).
- Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14).
- 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 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.

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 Execu-

tive 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 two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and be 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, Pacific Latin American, Rocky Mountain, Southern California

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

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

Great Lakes Area: Appalachian, German, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Midwest Latin American, Ohio

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

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

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

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 e, 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 official acts of the Foreign Missions Board and other committees of the division.

b. Conduct all correspondence with prospective missionaries and with those already on the field.

c. Prepare the foreign missions material 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 foreign missions work is involved.

e. Direct the foreign missions activities of the Fellowship.

f. Distribute all foreign missions 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 foreign missions supplies.

i. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the General 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 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 officer 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 requirements of applicants.** Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he is seeking ordination at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the district where he applies for ordination for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district in which he was previously licensed, as well as the district of his residence.

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

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

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

a. **Christian worker and license.** The district councils have the authority to recognize approved candidates as Christian workers and to grant licenses to those who qualify. The names of approved licensed ministers and Christian workers shall be reported to the

office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Ordination. The General Council Executive Presbytery constitutes the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and has the authority to give recognition as approved ordained ministers to those endorsed and recommended by the district councils to the General Council Credentials Committee. This approval must be obtained prior to the public ordination. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

Section 5. Certificates

a. Christian worker and license. 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. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event a minister does not receive his renewal form by January 1, he should notify his district office.

b. Grace period until February 15. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before January 31, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent and shall be required to pay a late fee of \$25, up until February 15.

c. Reinstatement required after February 15. Ministers who have not renewed by February 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of January 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$50 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.

(4) *Disabled ministers.* A permanently disabled or permanently ill minister whose illness prevents him or her from engaging in active ministry shall be indicated as inactive. The credential status of the disabled minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Disabled ministers thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

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 military 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.

(7) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:

(a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries.

(b) Both districts agree to the exception.

(c) The institution is acceptable to both 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 officer 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 organiza-

tions 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 courtesy. (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 alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

d. **Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee.** In the event the district fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to see that action is initiated.

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

a. **Within United States.** When a report or complaint of alleged violations by a minister is received, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, and/or an appointed representative, shall make an investigation, having in mind that it is his responsibility to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. This shall be done to determine the source of the report or complaint. The persons involved shall be interviewed in order to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints, after which the accused minister shall be interviewed. In the event the investigation so warrants, signed complaints shall be filed with the district office by the complainant describing the alleged violation.

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

Foreign Missions shall convey all information available to the home district in the following manner.

(1) **Report to home district.** At the earliest date after the Division of Foreign Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the home district of the minister or missionary, with a copy to the district missionary secretary.

(2) **Confidential file.** A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying to him all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field 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 Division of Foreign Missions or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

Section 5. Preparation and Filing of Charges

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

Section 6. District Hearing and Discipline

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

A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein; provided, however, an accused member may be disciplined and found guilty of charges preferred, if he refused to appear at the hearing, or proof is found of willful neglect on his part to take advantage of his rights and privileges.

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

Section 7. Credentials Terminations

In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his Certificate of Ordination and his current fellowship 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.

(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 (Cf. Article IX, Section 3).

(1) *Dismissed.* 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) *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for 2 consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in Article VII, Section 7, paragraph b, of the bylaws, his name shall be published as inactive in the ministers letter.

(3) *Not renewed.* If in the opinion of the Credentials Committees a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, his name shall be published as not renewed in the ministers letter.

(4) *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 of January 31, but do renew on or before February 15, have paid a late fee of \$25, to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices, 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 rulings of the court, may be held in contempt of court by the judge. The judge shall then order that the record of the court proceeding shall show such ruling. Charges or penalties may be placed against the offender. Should the defendant be found in contempt and refuse to comply with the ruling of the court, the judge may adjourn the court and submit his report to the Credentials Committees of the district and The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In this event the previous rulings in the case shall stand. Such decision will not jeopardize the defendant's right to appeal.

Section 8. Counsel

A mature, ordained minister, resident in the district, and in good standing in The General Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be chosen by the district to conduct the case for the plaintiff. The accused may conduct his own case or be represented by another ordained minister. Counsel for the defendant must be in good standing in The General Council of the Assemblies of God and in his respective district.

Both the counsel for plaintiff and defendant shall recognize the

spiritual implications of their trust. They shall be obligated to present only pertinent material relating to the case.

Section 9. Record and Report of Trial

Provision shall be made by the plaintiff, with the approval of the judge, for making a true and accurate record of the trial. This shall be the official record and shall be kept on file in the district office for future reference. A certified copy of all records shall be forwarded to the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. If the offense shall have occurred in any district other than the one in which the accused is a member, a report of the findings of the trial shall be filed with the superintendent of his district. These records, as certified, are the sole property of the district council and of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and are to be held in their respective files.

Section 10. Witnesses

Witnesses shall be free to testify under the direction of counsel. They shall not be required to answer questions asked by anyone other than the one presiding or the counsel who is at the time conducting the inquiry. Interrogation of witnesses and the taking of testimony from them shall be conducted in a Christlike manner, for the purpose of establishing the facts of the case.

No undue influence or unfair means shall be allowed to affect the testimony of witnesses. Opportunity for cross-examination of witnesses shall be given as the case proceeds.

Section 11. Order of Trial

a. The plaintiff. The counsel for the plaintiff shall first present all testimony and exhibits intended to prove the charges made against the defendant. No testimony except such as is relevant to the charges shall be allowed. The counsel for the defendant shall have opportunity to examine all exhibits and cross-examine all witnesses.

b. The defendant. Counsel for the defendant shall be allowed time and opportunity to present his side of the case and shall be granted all due respect and consideration.

Defense testimony shall be confined to disproving the charges and must not include countercharges against anyone, or use the attitude or conduct of others as reason or excuse for the alleged misconduct. This shall not exclude the right to impeach a witness.

Counsel for the plaintiff shall have opportunity to examine all exhibits and cross-examine all witnesses.

c. Review. When the defense has rested, the case may be reviewed by counsel for each side, beginning with the defense.

d. Instructions to the jury. The case shall be given to the jury with proper instructions by the presiding judge. Such instruction shall be confined to setting forth the true basis of judgment in the case as

represented by the evidence and shall in no wise be intended to prejudice the jury.

Accusation does not imply guilt, but may imply a misunderstanding or wrong information. The purpose of a trial is to arrive at all available facts relative to the case and to render a verdict based upon the evidence submitted. Judgment in the case shall be rendered in accord with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The jury shall be instructed to choose one of its number to serve as foreman when it retires to the jury room. The foreman shall lead the jurors in the review of the case and shall poll the jurors until a decision is reached.

Should there seem to be no possibility of reaching a decision of a two-thirds majority after repeated ballots, the foreman shall so apprise the judge. It shall be the prerogative of the judge to determine whether the balloting shall continue. Should the jury be unable to reach a verdict, the judge shall dismiss the jury and declare a mistrial. In the event of a mistrial because the jury cannot reach a verdict, the judge shall set the date for a new trial and a new jury will be selected.

Section 12. The Verdict

The verdict shall be reached by a two-thirds vote of the jury, and when presented to the court, the judge shall announce the verdict and adjourn the court, advising the defendant if found guilty that his counsel will inform him of his further rights of appeal. It shall then be the responsibility of the counsel for the defense to advise the defendant of his rights and privileges of appeal from the decision of the court.

The judge shall file his report with the district involved and with the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The district shall take appropriate action in accordance with the verdict rendered.

Section 13. New Trials

a. **Right of appeal.** The defendant may appeal from the decision of a court. Appeal shall be filed with the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and notice of such appeal shall be made in writing addressed to the general superintendent. A copy of notice of appeal shall be given and appeal made within 30 days following the date of notification of the verdict.

In the event the trial occurred in a district other than the one in which the defendant is a member, a copy of the appeal shall also be filed with the superintendent of his home district.

b. **Bases for appeals.** Appeals from the decision of the court affecting the minister's standing in the Assemblies of God fellowship as a result of a trial may be made only upon the following grounds:

(1) *Mistrial.* When there has been error either in arrangement for trial or method of conducting the same, or in the case of a verdict unsupported by sufficient evidence;

(2) *New evidence.* After final decision has been rendered, in the event new evidence is presented to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, such new trial shall be authorized and conducted as herein defined.

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

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

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

Section 14. Review by the General Presbytery

When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Appeals Board, either by the defendant or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery. This appeal shall be addressed to the office of the general secretary. Procedure in such cases shall conform to that in making appeal from a district credentials committee action or a jury trial, and must be made within 30 days following the notification of the decision of the Appeals Board.

Section 15. Reinstatement

a. A disciplined minister shall have the right to apply for reinstatement of his credentials, according to the provisions for such set forth in Article IX, A, Section 10. This provision shall apply to disciplinary action taken by either the General Council Credentials Committee or the General Presbytery, and also to action sustained by a trial.

b. 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 both the district officary and the General Council Credentials Committee.

c. 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 Assemblies of God college from each of the eight geographical areas of the United States, two laymen, and six presidents of endorsed institutions of higher learning.

(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 en-

rollment 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 mate-

rials or changes in style and format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publication before being initiated.

Section 3. Sunday School Department

a. Authorization and purpose

- (1) *Responsibilities.* There shall be a Sunday School Department which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday schools and other church schools of a nonacademic nature throughout the Fellowship.

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

- (3) *Functions.* The purpose of the Sunday School Department shall be:

- (a) To assist district and local Sunday school organizations in setting up effective programs.

- (b) To promote and conduct Sunday school conventions on a national and regional basis.

- (c) To encourage and conduct training programs for teachers and workers.

- (d) To produce manuals, handbooks, brochures, and literature of a promotional nature.

- (e) To assist in the organization and development of vacation Bible schools and other educational activities of the local church.

b. Government and organization

- (1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

- (2) *National Sunday School Committee.* There shall be a national Sunday School 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 and the secretary of the department by virtue of office; two other persons from within the department recommended by the department secretary to represent Women's Ministries and its auxiliaries; and four representatives from the field who represent the areas of Women's Ministries, all of whom shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, to serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

c. Funds

(1) *National Women's Ministries Day offerings.* An annual National Women's Ministries Day shall be observed at which time the ministry of the department shall be promoted. It is recommended that an offering be received in each church which shall be sent to the national Women's Ministries Department for use in support of the national office and to aid in costs of services it offers to district and local units.

(2) *Tithing of income to district and national offices.* To aid further in support of the work at both district and national levels, it is urged that each local Women's Ministries group shall be faithful in tithing its income into the district Women's Ministries office and the district Women's Ministries office in turn to tithe to the national office.

Section 5. Youth Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* There shall be a Youth Department which shall be responsible for the youth work known as Christ's Ambassadors. The department may be responsible for other related youth programs which shall be deemed feasible and desirable.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission: evangelization of the world, worshipping 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. Strategy. The missions strategy of the division shall be:

(1) The widest possible evangelization of the spiritually lost through every available means.

(2) The establishment of indigenous churches after the New Testament pattern.

(3) The training of national believers to proclaim the gospel to their own people in an expanding mission to other people.

(4) The showing of compassion for suffering people in a manner representing the love of Jesus Christ.

d. Indigenous principle. The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where

the gospel has not been preached and by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating national churches in all regions.

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions who 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.

c. 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.

d. Foreign Missions Board

(1) *Composition.* The activities of the Division of Foreign Missions shall be under the supervision of the 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 appointed 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, rotated so three will be appointed annually for each of two terms and two will be appointed in the year of the additional term. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* The responsibilities of the Foreign Missions Board shall be to establish and evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, to establish standards for appointed foreign missionaries and foreign missions institutions, and to examine and approve candidates for foreign missions appointment. The decisions of the board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(4) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the Foreign Missions Board who are not members of the Foreign Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the Foreign Missions Committee may present the case for the Division of Foreign Mission's decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or Foreign Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

e. Laymen's Advisory Council. An advisory council 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 and shall meet with the Foreign Missions Board at least once annually or as often as deemed necessary by the executive director of the division.

They shall be chosen from churches other than those whose pastors will be serving on the Foreign Missions Board at the same time. They shall have the endorsement of their respective pastors. Their terms of office shall be for 3 years, rotated so three will be elected annually for each of two terms and two will be elected in the year of the additional term. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

f. **Field directors.** There shall be four field directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical areas. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

g. **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, the heads of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. 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.

h. **General Presbytery representatives.** Field directors are members of the General Presbytery representing the missionaries from their respective areas. Other field fellowship representatives on the General Presbytery shall be chosen in the following manner: The Foreign Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries from each general area represented by the field directors, including international ministries. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery Meeting and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field fellowship. Ballots shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect.

i. **Foreign missions policies.** All appointed foreign missionaries

shall be required to work in accord with the published policies of the division as authorized by the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 3. Personnel Department

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

b. **Function.** The Personnel Department shall serve as the primary source for missionary personnel data and shall be responsible for:

- (1) Recruiting and processing prospective missionary candidates, both career and short-term.
- (2) Physical and mental health care of the missionaries and their dependents.
- (3) Family and children's programs.
- (4) Supervision of continuing education programs for missionary personnel.
- (5) Coordination of the missionary-in-residence program of Assemblies of God colleges.
- (6) Other duties as may be assigned by the executive director of the division or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 4. Promotions Department

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

b. **Function.** The Promotions Department shall manage the United States relationships of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Create, direct, and evaluate all promotional and fund-raising strategies.
- (2) Coordinate public, district, church, institutional, and parachurch relations.
- (3) Provide for deputational ministries and editorial services.
- (4) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director of the division or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 5. Finance Department

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

b. **Function.** The Finance Department shall serve the missionary family and the division's administrative function in all mat-

ters related to financial processing and accountability. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Execute and administrate the plans and policies set forth by the Foreign Missions Board with regard to missions finances.
- (2) Provide contact with outside agencies, associated departments, service departments, and districts with regard to the division's finances.
- (3) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director of the division or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 6. 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.
- d. An appropriation of up to 10 percent of undesignated contributions.
- e. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special designations) received directly by the division shall be transferred to an emergency fund to meet the emergency expenses for which the Division of Foreign Missions is responsible.

Section 7. 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 examining each applicant as to:

- (1) Personal experience of full New Testament salvation.
- (2) Definite experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- (3) Definite call to foreign work.
- (4) Physical, mental, and spiritual fitness for work.
- (5) Christian standing and general qualifications. It is required that each applicant receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of his/her district council, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character. Applicants shall not be granted general missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Candidates shall prove their ministry

and stability of character by a qualifying period of service in the United States.

c. **Specialized service.** Candidates for foreign service of a specialized character such as nurses, teachers, etcetera, 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.

Section 8. Support of Missionaries

a. **A faith mission.** The foreign missions program of the Assemblies of God is a faith mission. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

b. **Church support.** Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with the Division of Foreign Missions.

c. **Undesignated and general emergency funds.** Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

d. **District support.** It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable. (See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan.)

Section 9. 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 10. Field Organizations

a. **National church organization.** Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

b. **Field fellowships.** Missionary field fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries and approved ministers abroad assigned permanently to a field of 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 and with the national church.

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(s) to act for the field in matters normally handled by the field fellowship.

Section 11. 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 the title, and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missions 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**

(a) **General policy.** It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

(3) **Title policy on General Council loans.** In all cases where the Division of Foreign Missions has advanced 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 shall cooperate with the missionary fellowship on the field and must

secure its endorsement before requesting the approval of the division.

c. **Legal documents.** A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all mission properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to the Division of Foreign Missions for filing.

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 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, 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. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. Industrial and

institutional chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy Fund, and the military chaplaincy contributions shall be placed in the Military Chaplaincy Fund.

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 na-

tional 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 responsibil-

ity 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 be 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 officary.

ARTICLE XXIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer
4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

All business sessions of the General Council shall commence with prayer.

ARTICLE XXIV. QUORUM

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of seven executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of three members of the Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.

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